2 BROADWAY

SEPTEMBER 1977

WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

45p

ARGENTINA

Back row left to right: Pasarella, Gallegos, Killer, Pernia, Baley, Tarantini. Front row: Bertoni, Andiles, Luque, Bochini, Ortiz.

HUSEIN (F.C. Trabzonspor Turkey)

World SOCCER

Greenwood for England

THE DECISION of the Football Association to go for Ron Greenwood as England manager in succession to Don Revie will be applauded by all the purists in the game. The only doubts will be heard from those reviewing Greenwood's results as a manager.

In 13 years in sole charge at West Ham they won just two trophies — the FA Cup against Preston in 1964, and the Cup-winners' Cup in a Wembley classic against TSV 1860 München the following year. The highest West Ham finished in the league under Greenwood was sixth — in 1972-73.

As a coach he is highly respected for his attitude that skill counts above all. But that did have the unfortunate side-effect of making West Ham the team everyone loved to play against — their opponents always felt they were being presented with a better than evens chance of two points.

Greenwood is 54, old by the standards of today's tracksuit managers, and he will have three games in which the FA can judge whether he is to be permanently aided by a younger man.

The first is a friendly with Switzerland, which will provide Greenwood's only dummy run before the two vital World Cup games with Luxembourg and then Italy at Wembley on November 16.

International experience he already has. For three years he was in charge of the under-23s in the early sixties, and indeed he came close to being appointed to the England job when Walter Winterbottom stepped down in 1962 and Alf Ramsey was brought in.

Greenwood again came close to the call-up three years ago, when Ramsey was sacked. But his club record counted against him in comparison with Don Revie. Now, with Revie Arabia-bound in search of the security of a massive cash contract, the FA have gone back to Greenwood.

The "West Ham School" has become synonymous with skilful soccer — not least because three of his pupils, Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, were key members of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team.

Greenwood was born in Burnley and played for Chelsea, Brentford and Fulham as a thoughtful centre half before turning his attention to coaching. It was the brilliant display of Ferenc Puskas's magical Hungarians, in thrashing England 6-3 in 1953, which first gave him a glimpse of how coaching could develop skills in players, rather than destroy them — as has too often been the case in Britain.

He is a soccer academic, and it is fitting that one of his first coaching appointments was with Oxford University. Then it was on to amateur Walthamstow Avenue — who once beat Queen's Park Rangers in the FA Cup for Greenwood — before he stepped into the big league as Arsenal assistant manager.

Soon after he became manager of England youth team, then the under-23s, and in 1961 he took over at Upton Park.

Forty years ago Greenwood, as a youth, worked on the maintenance staff at Wembley. Now he is set to go back there to work again — but after what a transformation!

Ron Greenwood is the only man I know who is qualified for the England job. He alone can find the talent and mould it to compete with the best of the foreigners on equal terms.
ERIC BATTY, World Soccer, June 1977

Psst...wanna buy a ticket? Then go to Argentina!

ENGLISH soccer fans going to the FA to ask about World Cup Finals tickets are, I understand, being told: "Sorry, we can't help. Apply direct to Argentina."

For the FA are so sure no one will be going they have decided against asking the organising committee for a ticket allocation. They will be receiving tickets for officials and special requisitions, but none for issue to the fan in the street.

And that, in itself, is a pretty damning indictment of England's slim chances of qualifying — when even the English FA have decided in advance that England won't be there!

To be fair, the FA didn't make the decision off their own bat. They consulted travel agents and representatives of the World Cup 'holiday consortium' which has tied in Finals tickets with package holidays in the past — notably to Mexico in 1970.

The travel men's general verdict was that without England there would not be enough interest to make World Cup holidays a commercially viable proposition this time. With cut-price travel accommodation thus ruled out, the FA decided it wasn't worth bothering with an issue of tickets.

Once again they have had to fall in line with the commercial trap which upset a lot of people in 1970. Then it was all but impossible to obtain tickets in England unless you booked a holiday with the travel consortium.

Now the boot is on the other foot: the travel consortium aren't interested in what to them is a deal which won't pay. And that commercial hard-headedness will cause problems for those fans who have saved hard since 1974 with the intention of going to Argentina.

If England should surprise everyone, Italy included, and find a way through after all, the FA will then ask the organising committee for an allocation.

● Keir Radnedge

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Iran take giant step forwards

IRAN took a giant step towards their first appearance in the World Cup Finals when they beat Australia 1-0 in Melbourne thanks to a 78th-minute goal from Hassan Rowshan.

But the Australians were kicking themselves for this defeat – Dave Harding missed a penalty a minute before half-time against the Iran team who have built so successfully on the work by Frank O'Farrell a couple of years ago.

Iran, judging by their first-half display, would have been well pleased with a draw. They packed back in defence and goalkeeper Nasser Hezzi needed a cool head to keep his fellow defenders sensibly organised. He was well aided however by the tall Hossain Khazerani, who kept Peter Ollerton quiet and for all their domination, the Australians rarely threatened.

Iran now have five points from three games and Australia two points from two home matches. Their chances of following up their promising appearance in West Germany three years ago are rapidly fading.

The penalty was awarded when defender Nasrullah Abdullah handled to keep out a shot from John Kosmina. Harding ballooned his kick over the bar.

A second sad error killed off the Aussies. Goalkeeper Allan Maher parried, but failed to hold, a 25-yard drive from Mohammed Sadeghi, and Hassan followed up to slip the ball home before Maher could recover.

In the closing minutes Ollerton had a header cleared off the goal-line and Peter Sharne headed narrowly over, but Iran held on.

Australian manager Jim Shoulder, who has said beforehand that his players were far superior, said: "We missed our one chance and Iran stuck their one chance in. If you muff your chances it can cost dear, and that's what happened to us. If the penalty had gone in there's no doubt we would have won. It would have broken the ice."

ASIA/OCEANIA PLAY-OFF GROUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	2	1	0	3	0	5
South Korea	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Australia	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

DALGLISH WEARS KEEGAN'S CROWN...

EXIT ONE big name . . . enter another. That's the story of Liverpool's summer as the new European champions replaced Kevin Keegan with Celtic's Kenny Dalglish.

by Keir Radnedge

England captain Keegan left Anfield after the 3-1 triumph over Borussia Moenchengladbach, to join Cup-winners' Cup holders Hamburg for £500,000. That was less than Liverpool had been offered a year before by Real Madrid — but more than enough to enable them to replace Keegan with a man rated far more highly by many experts.

Ken Dalglish is 26 — just a month younger than Keegan. And the £440,000 fee was a British record — even if it still lies far behind the £1.2 million Napoli paid Bologna for Beppe Savoldi, and the £992,000 Barcelona splashed out for Johan Cruyff.

The previous British record was the £350,000 cash-and-players deal by which Everton bought Birmingham centre forward Bob Latchford four years ago. The biggest British cash deal was the £340,000 sale of Peter Shilton from Leicester to Stoke.

Why did Liverpool pounce for Dalglish, just three days before the Wembley Charity Shield date with Manchester United which was the major curtain-raiser to the new season?

In a television interview manager Bob Paisley made it almost sound as if he had been under pressure from his directors to spend the money for Keegan, to put it into player assets rather than let it go to waste in tax payments. But if Liverpool are to successfully defend their European and league titles then they had to have a top-class replacement.

And on the evidence of only Dalglish's first game, against Manchester United in the 0-0 Wembley repeat of the FA Cup Final, Keegan could soon be forgotten.

Indeed, Brian Greenhoff, United's central defender, said he rated Dalglish a more dangerous player than Keegan.

He didn't score, but he was sharp enough when there was just a glimpse of an opening. Instead it was midfielder Terry McDermott who came nearest a goal, with a second-half chip which beat Alex Stepney, hit the post and rebounded into the goalkeeper's arms.

But the match was not one on which to make ultra serious judgements about England's challengers for two of Europe's top trophies.

Conclusions

Saint-Etienne general manager Pierre Caronnaire was there, spying on his team's Cup-winners' opponents, but he said: "Neither side was in top gear really. I wouldn't like to draw any conclusions from this game. I'll be back to watch United in the league."

But the appearance of Dalglish with Liverpool so soon after his last Wembley display — he scored for Scotland in the 2-1 win over England in the Home Internationals — raises a question mark against the state of affairs with Scottish champions, Celtic.

And if Celtic can't afford to keep their top player happy, in what state is the rest of Scotland's domestic game?

Ironically Dalglish came to them from Cumbernauld when they were at their very peak, just a few weeks after Celtic had

Names in the news

ERNST HAPPEL has left his Brugge players in no doubt about his standards. The Austrian sent home goalkeeper Birger Jensen and sweeper Eduard Krieger after a 5-2 warm-up defeat by Feyenoord in Utrecht, because they went out on the town later that night. Happel took his players to the station, then left them to pay their own fares back to Belgium.

* * *

JUPP HEYNCKES, 32-year-old Borussian Moenchengladbach striker, is still troubled by the knee injury which ruined last season for him. Heynckes was only half-fit for the Champions' Cup Final with Liverpool and hoped to be back at his best for the new season. Instead the knee swelled again after some pre-season friendlies and Heynckes started the new season as he finished the old — on the treatment table.

* * *

ZOLTAN VARGA, Hungarian schemer who defected to the West during the 1968 Mexico Olympics, has joined Gent FC in the Belgian second division. Varga's wanderings have so far taken him to Hertha Berlin, Aberdeen, Ajax, Borussia Dortmund and Augsburg. He is now 32.

Kenny Dalglish, bought by Liverpool to replace Kevin Keegan.

become the first British team to win the Champions' Cup, beating Inter Milan 2-1 in Lisbon. Now, 10 years later he has played in 47 internationals and captained Celtic over the past two seasons, having taken over on the retirement of the eternal Billy McNeill.

Last season he was top scorer as Celtic won the league and Scottish Cup double. There are many similarities between his game and that of Keegan. Teetotaller Dalglish is sharp and quick. It is arguable too that he is more intelligent in applying his skills, and more thoughtful.

Either way, as Keegan was England's top player, so Dalglish held that honour for Scotland. Liverpool could hardly have tried any harder to find a more natural replacement.

Keegan, meanwhile, got off to a marvellous start in West Germany. In his first game he scored one and made two more as Hamburg beat Barcelona 6-0, and in his second he scored again as Hamburg beat Liverpool 3-2 in the Hafen Pokal, for a spurious trophy created as part of the transfer fee.

It was a different story, however, when the *Bundesliga* got under way. Hamburg, with Keegan anonymous in midfield, crashed 5-2 to MSV Duisburg before restoring their fan's faith with a 3-0 home win over promoted TSV München 1860.

Keegan's arrival as the most expensive signing in the history of West German soccer has sparked plenty of interest. He has now bought a house in the city and should soon be settled in. Interesting as it will be to see how Liverpool fare without him, it will be interesting to see how Keegan fares in the big wide soccer world without Liverpool.

FIFA decide dates

FIFA have settled all arguments about the dates on which Hungary and Bolivia meet to decide who qualifies for next year's World Cup Finals in Argentina. The first leg will be on October 29 in Budapest, with the return on November 30 in La Paz.

JENNINGS FOR ARSENAL

PAT JENNINGS, Tottenham's Northern Ireland goalkeeper, has joined Arsenal for £45,000. Tottenham were relegated last season and clearly felt that with young Barry Daines such a useful deputy it was pointless hanging on to Jennings, once rated among the best goalkeepers in Europe.

Arsenal meanwhile sold goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer to UEFA Cup contenders Aston Villa. Ron Saunders, the Villa boss, moved for Rimmer after both his goalkeepers, Jake Findlay and John Burridge, showed poor form in the Bilbao four-club summer tournament in Spain.

JOSEF VENGLOS, former Czechoslovak national team assistant, has returned to club football with former Cup-winners' Cup holders, Slovan Bratislava. Venglos, who previously led Slovan to the league twice and also the Cup, replaces Michal Vican. The former Ruch Chorzow coach has left after falling out with the players.

• • •

ROMANO CAZZANIGA, Torino's 34-year-old reserve goalkeeper, must quit football after injuring his back in a fall from a hotel balcony. That's a serious UEFA Cup blow for Torino. First-choice 'keeper Luciano Castellini is under a three-match suspension in European competition.

• • •

RUDI GUTENDORF, new coach to Hamburg, is the only current Bundesliga coach who was holding a top-flight job when the league was set up 15 years ago. Then Gutendorf was with MSV Duisburg. Ironically Hamburg met MSV in their first match this season . . . and lost 5-2!

• • •

JAN PETERS, 22-year-old Dutch hope, couldn't have made a better start with his new club, AZ'67 Alkmaar. Peters scored twice in a 3-0 win over Ajax Amsterdam in the final of the Amsterdam pre-season tournament. A couple of years ago Ajax nearly signed Peters, but their doctors vetoed the deal because of his history of knee trouble.

• • •

YEVGENI RUDAKOV, Dynamo Kiev's 34-year-old international goalkeeper, has added his name to the vast list of retirements this year. Also quitting soccer, because of injury however, is Kaiserslautern's 30-year-old Swedish striker, ROLAND SANDBERG, one of the sharpest forwards around during the last World Cup Finals.

from ERIC WEIL in BUENOS AIRES

FRANCE EXPECTED IT TOUGHER

South American tours review

(0-0 v Argentina; 2-2 v Brazil)

FRANCE can be well satisfied with their two drawn games against World Cup finalists Argentina and Brazil on South American soil. The question now is will they themselves qualify for next year's World Cup finals to make use of the experience gained.

The more important of the two matches for them was the second against Brazil and they left out some of their top men in Buenos Aires, but nevertheless got away with a 0-0 draw.

France was not as compact a team as other European sides which had played Argentina during the previous weeks (including England and Scotland), but their defence nevertheless worked well enough to hold Argentina's attack which again failed to capitalize on the team's midfield play. The French attack, well led by Platini (who proved difficult to mark) and Baronchelli, had the better chances — not more because each team had only four really dangerous shots at goal — because France was quicker to move into attack. Argentina's midfield (Villa and Larrosa) played well, but the very fact that they played the ball too much resulted in time wasting and by the time the ball reached the area the French defence was in position. Argentina also lacked a sharp shooter and missed Bertoni who had been sent off against England two weeks earlier and received a four-match suspension from the Argentine FA. Winger Houseman was unstoppable at times as he caught the French defence off balance with some dazzling dribbling, specially in the second half, but he lacked support. Finally it was a defender, Passarella, who shot most at goal — six shots out of Argentina's 14.

France were not fast on the whole and imposed their slower rhythm, showing once again that Argentina's rivals always seem to dictate the rhythm of play.

After the match French players expressed surprise that Argentina did not provide stronger opposition and forward Michel Platini said that Argentine soccer was too static and lacked surprise to be able to seriously worry European teams in spite of the fact that they had good players.

Dominated

Four days later, in Rio, Brazil appeared to be coasting to an easy victory when they dominated the proceedings from the start and brought goalkeeper Rey to some fine saves before scoring through Edinho after 29 minutes and Roberto four minutes after halftime. But the French hit back with Six making good use of Brazilian defender Luiz Pereira's mistake to reduce the arrears two minutes later. And it was France for the rest of the way as they took over midfield control and found the loopholes in the home defence. But Tressor only headed a deserved equaliser from a corner four minutes from the end.

France rounded off their tour with a match in Belo Horizonte, fielding most of their reserves against Atletico Mineiro (one of Brazil's better club sides who were third in the last national championship) and lost 3-1 after Tressor had tied the match 1-1 only 18 minutes from the end. . . . And the plane taking them back home was delayed five hours while being closely searched in Rio and Dakaar after police received an anonymous message that a bomb had been placed in it and would explode over the Atlantic.

Yugoslavia hold Brazil

YUGOSLAVIA came closer than any other team this year to beating Brazil when they drew 0-0 with them in Belo Horizonte in front of 91,000 spectators in the first match of their South American tour. That is why they were something of a disappointment a week later when losing 1-0 to Argentina in Buenos Aires.

The Yugoslavs showed speed in switching from defence to attack (well led by Surjac) and Brazil found it impossible to break through their man to man marking. Both sides missed scoring chances during the first half, but after 32 minutes Zavistic had a goal disallowed by Brazilian referee Armando Marques and it was a dubious decision. Yugoslavia, obviously superior in the first half, tired after the interval to allow Brazil into the game, but they kept up their tight marking to give Brazil little room.

The Brazilians were booed by their fans for most of the match (as is the custom when they are not actually winning) and afterwards coach Claudio Coutinho said this had been his team's severest test so far.

Three days later the Yugoslavs, with only one change, beat the Brasilia Sports Club, in Brazil's new capital, 1-0 with a goal from Savic 20 minutes from the end in an exhibition match and they were fully expected to beat the indifferent Argentine selection with an unchanged team.

Six shots

Argentina shot more at goal this time than in previous matches . . . and more players did the shooting, but defender Passarella again outdid his team mates with six shots. Yet Argentina only managed to score from a penalty of Passarella's after 32 minutes. Meanwhile Yugoslavia, who had now failed to score in their last four internationals, suffered from Argentina's usual weakness. They attacked a lot, but only had two dangerous shots at goal . . . and this was not due to Argentina's defence which looked unsafe at times.

Argentina again lacked striking power to go with good midfield play and they again lacked surprise, but to be fair, one must mention that Houseman was always dangerous and the penalty was awarded when he was brought down by Muzinic. Yugoslavia's best attacker was Zavisic, but he was well marked by Argentine captain Carrascosa, one of the home team's few successes.

Yugoslav coach Marko Valok said his team was tired and played slower than usual and they were not nearly so good as against Brazil.

Olguin (Argentina) and Bogdan (Yugoslavia) clash heads as the former tries to head the ball away near his goal. Argentina won the match in Buenos Aires 1-0.

EAST GERMANY'S RUN ENDS

EAST GERMANY, in spite of their impressive record of having been unbeaten in their last 21 internationals over two years (including the Olympic Games which they won) and having the experience of eight World Cup (1974) men in the squad, showed their limitations in losing their only full international match 2-0 against Argentina.

The East Germans looked an organised and mechanised team, but they lacked creativity. Argentina's better individual play allowed them to put up a slightly better performance than in their previous six weekly home international matches with Houseman (29m) and defender Carrascosa (71m), with a beautiful run, scoring the goals and the latter and half Ardiles giving outstanding performances.

Argentina's biggest improvement was in defence where covering up and clearing was done much better and the German attack was given little chance.

The match was also notable for the fact that there were fewer stoppages than in previous matches of the series and there were 66 minutes of actual play out of the 90 while earlier the total had never been much above 50.

The East German squad then went on to Colombia and Ecuador to face not very strong club sides with poor results: 0-0 v Emelec (Guayaquil), lost 2-3 v Independiente (Medellin), 1-1 v Independiente Santa Fe (Bogota).

EASY ROUND FOR BRUGES

From John Rypens

The Belgian League started this year on August 17 with eighteen teams in the First Division. The newcomers are FC Boom and La Louvière. The Belgian championship will last until April 30.

This year, there were no sensational transfers, except for the exchange of goalkeepers between Anderlecht and RWD Molenbeek: the Dutch international keeper Jan Ruiter now plays for RWDM and another Dutchman, Nico de Bree, from RWDM, now defends the goal of Anderlecht.

League champions FC Bruges are once more candidates for the national title. Bruges bought Jan Simoen, the topscorer of last season, from Ostend. The Danish international player from Bruges, "Ullie" Le Fevre went back to his home country and was replaced by the 22-year-old Dane Jan Sorensen.

Unsavoury

But the biggest stir around Bruges was caused by the Austrian manager of the team, the well-known Ernst Happel, who remains manager of the Belgian champions but who will as *well* train and coach the Dutch national team.

As both Belgium and Holland are still in the run for a ticket to Argentina, this causes an unsavoury situation: how will Happel approach his Belgian club players who'll be his opponents during the upcoming Holland-Belgium game?

Anderlecht, once more runner-up, bought the Dutch midfielder Dusbaba from Ajax. RWD Molenbeek managed to hook the 28-year-old Carlos Alinho, who played for Benfica Lisbon and 14 times for the Portuguese national team. Another important transfer was concluded by FC Antwerp: they got the Yugoslav international Stanislas Karasi.

Opponents

For the various European competitions, the feelings are mixed concerning the first opponents of the Belgian teams. FC Bruges was the luckiest team: they'll get around the Finnish amateur team of Kuopio rather easily.

The other Belgian teams have tougher opponents: Anderlecht face Lokomotiv Sofia, the Bulgarian cupholders, a hard and strong team with little European experience.

RWD Molenbeek renew its contact with Scotland (Aberdeen FC), two years ago RWDM played for the UEFA-cup vs. Dundee.

Standard Liège, have the toughest mission: Slavia Prague, the biggest name in Czechoslovakian soccer. The return games will have to be played by September 28.

FC Bruges coach Ernst Happel.

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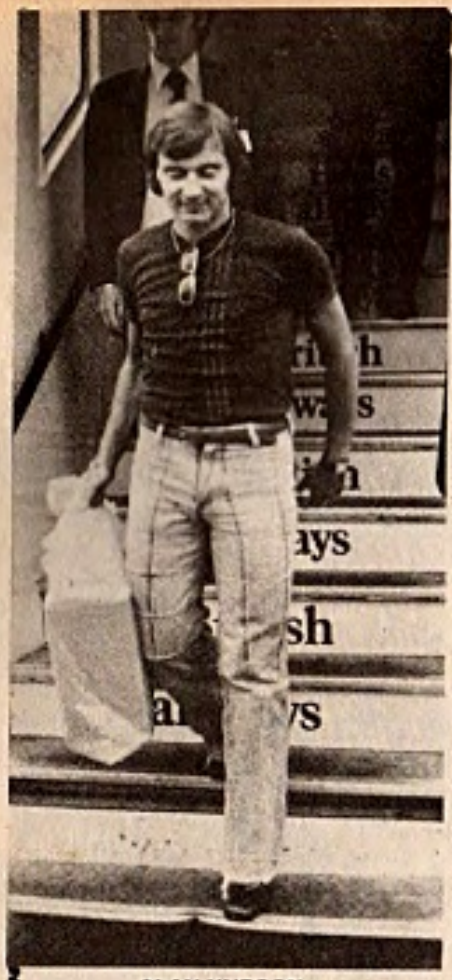

ALAN HUDSON

Managers like Al Capone

PHILIP OSBORN'S book "The Winners" is about the backroom intrigue of big-time soccer. Cliche-ridden, but entertaining, every character is a "nasty" – the only good guy is the chairman of the fictitious Midchester United. Here is the central anti-hero's (a sports journalist) view of football managers: "The question of the truth rarely has any bearing when a football manager is answering inquiries from the Press. The main consideration is what answer suits his purposes best. Some football managers would make Al Capone seem like a choir boy.

A man like Fraser wouldn't think twice about swearing night was day if it suited his book. And the most sickening feature is that he would try to justify his action by saying he was acting in the interests of his club. Managers seem to think that this factor alone over-rules the ten commandments". So there! In any case, for 80p published by Pienhurst, it is a bargain.

"TWO Weeks in Another Town" is one of my favourite works written by one of my favourite writers, Irving Shaw. I have just enjoyed the same opportunity as the book's hero by spending a fortnight in Vienna. A longish stay in that beautiful, clean, well-organised but still lively city, gave me the chance to "pause", to read a few books, to observe the English scene (football and other aspects) from a different perspective.

Foreign papers were available regularly on the newstands around the Kartner Strasse, but as most of the English ones were snapped-up by regular customers, I had to be satisfied with a haphazard daily supply. Yet, scanning through the back papers of those I saw, it became clear that we have had the most squalid close season in living memory.

The Revie affair was, of course, the most depressing episode, casting a shadow over the integrity of not only the central figure, but of journalists and editors as well. To the numerous enquiries concerning his motives, I could only answer that he is obsessed with money. When I remarked that he'll never get a job in England, an even more "realistic" colleague retorted that Hitler would get a job if a Board of Directors thought that he could win a few matches for them.

Duplicity

My reasons for utterly condemning Revie are based on the duplicity of his behaviour, the shameless use of his family for commercial purposes, and his policy of despair when he said that he should have selected a "bastard of a team" for England. His ideal team would have included thugs, kickers, spoilers, who would have been "difficult to score against and might have stolen a goal at the other end".

Football-wise, Don Revie cut his own throat with this nihilistic self-confession! "Ethic-wise", this is his crime sheet for the benefit of World Soccer's numerous foreign-based readers.

1. He asked for compensation to leave a job he had already decided to abandon.

2. When he resigned on the pages of the Daily Mail (and not to his employers, The F.A.!) he gave the criticisms which began to hurt his family as the reason for his decision.

PERSONAL OPINION

3. He signed a lucrative contract with the Arabs knowing full well that he would be branded as a "traitor and deserter, a rat leaving a sinking ship of England which he helped to torpedo himself".

How would that behaviour and the reactions to it affect his sensitive family? As for the Macdonald, Hudson lunatic escapade, my good friend Jim Lawton had it in a nutshell in the *Daily Express*. "English soccer needs to find a Moses. Someone to go up to the mountain for a new set of commandments. The trouble is we can be almost sure he would come tottering down again with a vodka in one hand and an agent holding the other. Even worse, he would flog his story to a Sunday newspaper and the result would be as compelling as a

Ham, eg

COULDN'T possibly stay in Vienna without visiting at least one of their once-famous clubs. As Rapid were on tour at the time, I had to choose Austria/WAC, heroes of my youth when their Arsenal-style, lilac-and-white shirts with the white sleeves were worn by such giants as the "paper-thin man" Sindelar, Naush, Jerusalem . . . Oh, those four-cornered tournaments at Easter time, when Ferencvaros, Hungaria, Rapid and Austria used to meet one year in Budapest, and the next in the "hell of the Hohe Warte", or in the Prater-Stadium.

I have never since seen such football, or perhaps I was just young and impressionable. Anyway, all I had to do was to get in my friend's Citroen, pass the Sudbahnhof, go to the village of Berndoft, then into Hirtenberg, turn right and then into Lindabrum. There I found the Karl Beck Sportschule, where the now Memphis-sponsored (a cigarette company!), successors of Ocwirk & Co. were preparing for the new season. We were cordially greeted

STANDS DEMNED

LESLIE VERNON

rush preview of the Basingstoke telephone directory."

The problem is that Lawton himself made a great deal of journalistic capital out of his friendship with Malcolm Allison, whose headline making "life-style" and public utterances weren't always in the "best interests of the game".

Perhaps Willie Bell, the Birmingham manager, has a better moral platform to speak from. He said: "I'm wondering whether the time is not approaching when managers should start telling all. That would include the reasons why we fine players, other action we take inside the club . . . and not forgetting the wages the players are getting. Managers have got to get back straight away in terms of discipline because the situation is becoming ridiculous."

MY favourite quote of the month concerns football's popularity in the USA. Johnny Moore, vice-president of the San Jose, California, Earthquakes said: "I think it's partly because American football and basketball shut out all children of average physique. To play American football you have to be a gorilla and to play basketball you have to be a giraffe. Soccer only requires that you be a good athlete." When he sees blue skies, Woosnam sees visions of an American team in the finals of the World Cup by 1990. "The next Pele", he likes to say, "is already running about in Alabama."

My funniest moment in Vienna: I was standing at a kiosk near the Danube, eating a bratwurst with mustard and a slice of brown bread. A native character jumped out of a Mercedes, strolled up to me, pointed at my plate and said to the girl behind the counter: "I'll have the same for my dog!" Affluent society, where are you now?

ggs and Stessl

by the 37-year-old manager, Herman Stessl who invited us for breakfast. As the time was 8 am — the Austrians start work early, even their footballers — the offer was accepted.

While I was having my ham and eggs, Stessl talked about football (an ideal arrangement!).

"Our 'Superliga' hasn't been a success, because, as in Scotland, our leading teams play against each other too often, and the public are satiated. But from the playing point-of-view, it is helpful that there are no easy games in the League. The Press here are very unco-operative. Knock, knock, knock all the time, they discourage the fans, have no idea how to sell the game (where did I hear this one before?)

"Still, there is a steady improvement because, in the last two or three years, we have adopted a more professional approach. We realised that we were living in the shadows of our own "glorious" past for too long. Sheer artistry doesn't win matches these days — you must combine our traditional pretty, pretty approach with that of the more physical game of the W. Germans, Holland and England.

"Yes, I do rate English football very highly, and make a bi-annual pilgrimage to study their training methods. One week at Arsenal with Bertie Mee and Bobby Campbell taught me a great deal. Football is still the Number One sport here, and important internationals draw full houses of up to 80,000 people.

Parits and Pirkner are back from abroad, and we also have a Uruguayan forward, Juan Morales, who played in the '74 World cup. But the best player in Austria at present is my linkman, the 22-year-old Prohaska." Permission was given to speak to the players, and the bemoustacheod Prohaska, whose impressive Alfa Romeo in the car park demonstrated that, in a country of footballing aristocrats, the game can still be a lucrative occupation for some, talked frankly: "I have to spend one more year here because of contractual obligations, then I'll accept the best offer from abroad.

MALCOLM MACDONALD

'A bad lot' — hardly!

Unless one of the masters of the 'game' – Maupassant, Maugham or Chekov – are the authors of a short story, one is habitually left with a feeling of waste. Like a Chinese meal, these morsels of miniature offerings leave me either wanting 'more' or feeling that I have just spent ten minutes reading something utterly inconsequential or unmemorable.

Perhaps I am prejudiced, because I well remember excellent pre-war novelists, pressed by financial necessities, "hacking out" short stories in Middle-European coffee-houses in order to pay their rent or the gas bill. Nevertheless, Brian Glanville's latest collections, "A Bad Lot" kept me sufficiently entertained in my hotel bedroom in Nussdorf. The title story is by far the best, but here again, there is so much happening, that it could easily have been extended to a full-length novel. This is still an excellent little book (Peacock 50p), full of shrewd observations and good humour. "Jackie the Jibber", about a guy whose "raison d'etre" is to get in to see big fights without a ticket, is a gem. . . .

Soulier d'Or contest is very unfair

I ALWAYS find it difficult to take the *Soulier d'Or* award seriously. I think it's because the English translation — Golden Boot — sounds more like a disgrace than a prize.

Nevertheless, the Golden Boot has become one of those fringe institutions in European soccer over the past 10 years, though the award is manifestly unfair.

It's supposed to be for the top scorer in Europe. But since the award deals only in total goals scored and not average goals per match it's impossible to judge fairly.

Also, the award is based on an autumn-spring season as is the norm in Western and Central Europe, and so the Scandinavians and Russians are always absent — save in the early stages of the competition when their leagues are already coming to an end.

But if it's easy to criticise — ad there's the odd matter of why the Cypriots were omitted from the contest this past season — there seems little doubt that the right winner emerged. No matter what the class of football, for one man to hit 47 goals in 34 games makes him well worth pride of place.

That man — as in 1975 — is Dinamo Bucharest's Dudu Georgescu — a particularly interesting victor because, unlike most of his rivals, he is no out-and-out striker. Georgescu, a handsome 27-year-old who has won 30 caps for Rumania, is an attacking midfielder — that is, he causes havoc by using the space he is allowed in moving forward *behind* his fellow strikers.

He certainly enjoyed a battle royal for the award this year, but then, he did have extra incentive. Dinamo, the successful Rumanian team over the past 15 years, needed a lengthy chase before they finally overhauled the other most popular team in Bucharest, Steaua, to win the league title for the ninth time.

He was undisputed leader after scoring 10 goals in the first five games of the season, and he was still just ahead at around halfway. He'd scored 22 in 17, while Reims' Argentine striker, Carlos Bianchi, had scored the same number, but in six more matches. Then came Ajax's Ruud Geels (21 from 21), Bayern Munich's Gerd Müller (20 from 20) and another Dutchman in Kees Kist of AZ'67 Alkmaar. He has scored 19 goals in 21 games.

The Rumanian mid-season break is one of the longest in Central and Eastern Europe and so, by the end of April, when the contest should have been sorted out, it looked as if Georgescu's chances of regaining his crown (or, rather, his Boot) had disappeared.

Anton Antoniades — one of Europe's top scorers in 1971-72.

Geels was now undisputed leader with 34 goals, and Köln's Dieter Müller, Kist, Gerd Müller — despite his back injury — and Vasas' Bela Varadi were all now ahead of Georgescu, who lay nine goals behind Geels and apparently out of it.

In three games he failed to score. But so did Geels, who was now joined as leader by Dieter Müller, while Bianchi, who first appeared as a serious challenger for the award three years ago, had now leapfrogged ahead of the Rumanian.

Then suddenly, Georgescu found his golden touch. Four goals in one game, three more in two games inside four days and as if by magic he was a goal clear of Geels, who had finished the season on 34. Varadi came up past the Dutchman as well, but with the Rumanian league being virtually the last to

by Keir Radnedge

finish Georgescu added a couple more hat-tricks to push Dinamo to the league title, and himself to undisputed No. 1 among Europe's goalscorers.

Georgescu, born in 1950 in Bucharest, has rocketed to fame in the past four years. His football career started when he was ten, and playing in the youth teams of Progresul Bucharest. At 18 he was in the first team, but playing in midfield and, often, in the centre of defence.

It is to this period that he refers you when questions are asked about where he became such an adept header of a ball.

His attacking talent couldn't stay hidden for long. By the time he left second division Progresul in 1972 he had been top scorer in the division twice and, after hitting eight goals in 12 games for FCT Resica, he was snapped up in mid-season by Dinamo.

He went straight into the first team and in October 1973 celebrated his international debut with a goal in the 9-0 rout of Finland. The match was a World Cup qualifying tie, even such a grand margin proved insufficient, and East Germany went to the Finals. Georgescu, however, was on his way to making a name for himself.

At the end of 1973-74 he had scored 22 goals, second-best in Rumania, and lifted Dinamo into the UEFA Cup. They went out to Koln in the second round in 1974-75, but that was the only disappointment. While Dinamo were making sure of the championship again, Georgescu was making himself a name throughout Europe by winning the Golden Boot — though his total of 33 was the lowest winning aggregate of all.

Georgescu himself had barely heard of the award, let alone dreamed of winning it until the last few games of the season. He scored only 13 goals in the first half of 1974-75, but a spring spell of 18 goals in 11 games — including three doubles, one hat-trick, and one four — sent him roaring up the list. Of his final total of 33 goals, 15 were headers!

Ambition

He underlined his consistency in 1975-76, with 31 more, but this time the surprising Cypriot, Sotiris Kaiafas, outpaced everyone with 39 goals and Georgescu failed to make the top three. Dinamo failed to retain the league, so Georgescu had two incentives for this season — and achieved them both!

Not that regaining the Golden Boot and the league title are the end of his ambition. This coming season he hopes to see Dinamo make some headway, after years of trying, in the Champions' Cup. Beyond that are the World Cup Finals.

Having beaten Spain in Bucharest and won away against Yugoslavia, the Rumanians are in the driving seat in their group and overall victory would provide sweet revenge over the Spaniards in particular, who edged Rumania out of a place in the quarter finals of the last European Championship.

Rumania have always been rated among the also-ran of world soccer, but Georgescu thinks the times are changing.

"Rumanian football is now as powerful as that of Spain and many other nations," he said recently. "We have young players of tremendous potential, and I don't see why we shouldn't think in terms of success at international level."

The snipers say, of course, that Georgescu has only achieved his personal fame because of the generally weak nature of the Rumanian league, but he replies: "My job is to score goals. I have always done that, in no matter what class of football, and I think I could succeed even in somewhere as tough defensively, as Italy. Perhaps not 47, or 33 or 31 goals, but 20 at least to show that I've earned my place among Europe's top scorers."

It will be interesting to see if he can maintain his progress next season, and make any effect in Europe and the World Cup. Certainly he has been one of the most dominant names in the Golden Boot contest over the past three years, along with Bianchi and Geels.

Then, of course, Gerd Müller has been showing the way to goal longer than any of the other present contenders. He first entered the top three, at No. 1(!), in 1970, with 38 goals, and won the award again in 1972. Only Benfica's Eusebio and now Georgescu have also won the award twice. Eusebio took it in the first year — 1968 — and then again in 1973. But, to be honest, he was, like Georgescu, playing in a league where there is a big imbalance between the half dozen top clubs and the rest.

The same was true of CSKA Sofia's Petar Jekov and, naturally enough, Sporting Lisbon's Hector Yazalde. The most consistently potent scorer has been, it is clear, Gerd Müller — West Germany's leading scorer five times in the past eight years!

GOLDEN BOOT 1976-77

1	Dudu Georgescu	Dinamo	32	47
2	Bela Varadi	Vasas Budapest	34	36
3	Ruud Geel	Ajax Amsterdam	34	34
4	Dieter Müller	1st FC Köln	34	34
5	Carlos Bianchi	Reims	38	28
6	Gerd Müller	Bayern Munich	34	28
7	Kees Kist	AZ'67 Alkmaar	34	27
8	Bernd Holzenbein	Eintracht Frankfurt	34	27
9	Gomes da Silva	Porto	30	26
10	Michel Platini	Nancy	38	25

NB: Top Englishman was Malcolm Macdonald (Arsenal) 24 goals in 42 games.

PAST WINNERS

			goals
1967-68			
1	Eusebio da Silva	Benfica	43
2	Antal Dunai	Ujpest Dozsa	36
3	Bobby Lennox	Celtic	32
1968-69			
1	Petar Jekov	CSKA Sofia	36
2	Nikos Sideris	Olympiakos	35
3=	Helmut Koegelberger	FK Austria	31
	Dunai	Ujpest	31
1969-70			
1	Gerd Müller	Bayern München	38
2=	Jan Devillet	Spora Luxembourg	31
	Jekov	CSKA Sofia	31
1970-71			
1	Josip Skoblar	Marseille	44
2	Salif Keita	Saint-Etienne	42
3	Georges Dedes	Panionios	28
1971-72			
1	Gerd Müller	Bayern München	40
2	Anton Antoniades	Panathinaikos	39
3=	Jo Harper	Aberdeen	33
	Slobodan Santrac	OFK Belgrade	33
	Francis Lee	Manchester City	33
1972-73			
1	Eusebio	Benfica	40
2	Gerd Müller	Bayern München	36
3	Jekov	CSKA Sofia	29
1973-74			
1	Hector Yazalde	Sporting Lisbon	46
2	Hans Kramki	Rapid Vienna	36
3=	Gerd Müller	Bayern München	30
	Jupp Heynckes	Borussia Mg	30
	Carlos Bianchi	Reims	30
1974-75			
1	Dudu Georgescu	Dinamo Bucharest	33
2=	Yazalde	Sporting Lisbon	30
	Ruud Geels	Ajax Amsterdam	30
	Delio Onnis	Monaco	30
1975-76			
1	Sotiris Kaiafas	Omonia Nicosia	39
2	Bianchi	Reims	34
3	Peter Risi	Zurich	33

HAM

PROFESSIONAL football on a full time basis was only introduced in West Germany fourteen years ago, but some of the shrewd Technical Directors who run the Bundesliga clubs have quickly learned how to turn the game into a profitable venture.

Transfer fees have spiralled in Germany just like in other countries, but have, until this season at any rate, never reached the dizzy heights as for example in Italy, nor did they compare with such spectacular sums as some Spanish clubs laid out on foreign stars. Even the English transfer fees were way above those paid for top class players in West Germany.

Now, however, it appears that the sky is to be the limit there, with paradoxically, an Englishman paving the way to new records on the transfer market. Kevin Keegan, the former Liverpool star has become the costliest player in German history — the reported two million Marks total (£500,000) smashed also the English record on the way to

Cologne crash

THE start to the new championship season brought two major sensations: One of the favourites for the title FC Cologne crashed by 5-1 to Fortuna Düsseldorf. And the equally highly fancied Hamburger SV fell to MSV Duisburg by 5-2! Only once before did so many fans turn up on the opening day as now — 336,000 to the nine games! But never have the first round games produced so many goals — 34 in all.

After the richly promising form shown in pre-season meetings — 6-0 triumph over Barcelona and a 3-2 win against Liverpool — the much lauded Hamberger outfit collapsed to the controlled, unspectacular, but solid and effective style of the modest Duisburgers.

Once again it was proved that a collection of stars does not make a team. Of course, it is far too early to pass judgment on Hamburg's highly priced individuals. But Keegan, for instance, who was tightly marked by the international full back Bernhard Dietz, hardly got a kick in.

Obviously other German defenders, who have been warned that the Englishman — the first ever in the *Bundesliga* — does not like close marking will tackle him exactly like that. Duisburg's captain Dietz (29), said afterwards: "Keegan is a very good player, but it was a mistake to start all that jazz about him being a superman — he will most likely pay for it."

Dietz was delighted with his own display and so were his team mates — each of them collected £250 as win bonus! With money like that available here, it is little wonder that several top class British players are still negotiating, either openly or secretly with German clubs. The "exodus" will certainly continue from Britain to the Continent, but it is unlikely that any foreign footballers can be lured to the impoverished scene in the English Football League.

BURG CASHED IN ON KEEGAN

Hamburg. But whilst most English clubs who buy big generally expect that the costly player will just draw bigger crowds to their League matches and help them win something at the far off end of the season, the Germans have sought instant ways of recouping their expenditure.

In order to launch Keegan before their public, Hamburg's general manager Dr. Peter Krohn has deliberately abstained from using the England captain in Hamburg's matches in the International Cup, staged to help the European football pools companies. Instead, Keegan was introduced to his new fans when Spain's top club CF Barcelona visited Hamburg for a friendly. A total of 45,000 spectators turned up in anticipation of seeing the new "Superstar" and left £180,000 at the gate.

A week later Liverpool themselves showed up in Hamburg to compete for the so-called "Hafen-Pokal" (Port-Cup, for cities which are sea ports!) — a brain child of Dr. Krohn. This time 58,000 fans packed the Volksparkstadion bringing receipts of £238,000! Thus, in two matches, Hamburg collected a cool £418,000, which nearly paid off Keegan's transfer fee . . .

Same stunt

No wonder Hamburg's directors, especially the club's president Herr Paul Benthien, are rubbing their hands in glee. Of course, Dr. Krohn was not the inventor of this idea — Barcelona, to name just one club, did the same stunt when they forked out nearly £1 million for Johan Cruyff.

That more German clubs will follow suit and start chasing big names all over Europe is now on the cards. No wonder, since the *Bundesliga* enjoyed last season the greatest attendance boom in its 14-year history. The total of 7,472,358 spectators at the 306 games (average 24,419 per match), was a new record. Previous best was the 7,129,486 registered in 1966-67.

The biggest crowds came to newly promoted Borussia Dortmund (733,995), followed by Schalke (634,159), Hamburger SV (531,812), Cologne (527,681) and relegated Karlsruhe (521,812). Bayern Munich drew nearly 500,000 and champions Borussia Monchengladbach, to their small ground, 414,853 — in each case to 17 homes games.

Hamburg were not the only club to fill their stadium for just friendly encounters. The meeting between the Munich rivals 1860 and Bayern, with nothing but prestige at stake, drew 70,000 fanatics to the Olympic stadium bringing £200,000 into the kitty! The promoted 1860 won incidentally by 2-1.

Promoted

And the circumstances of how 1860 Munich were promoted sound indeed like a fable. The "Lions" finished second in the Second Bundesliga South and thus were to play-off against Arminia Bielefeld the second placed club in the Second Bundesliga North to decide the third promotion spot (to join the two Second Division champions).

When Arminia won their home leg by 4-0 it seemed that all was over bar the shouting. Not so, for the Munich outfit turned the tables sensationally as they too, triumphed at home by 4-0! In a final decider 1860 got through by 2-0 on a neutral ground in Frankfurt before a full house of 60,000!

That the upsurge of interest is likely to continue is evidence from the run on season tickets. Two weeks before the start to the new campaign some £3 million (a million more than last season!) were spent by fans on these passes which entitle them to see just 17 home matches (there is no reserve League, like in England). Again the biggest receipts were reported by Borussia Dortmund, where the best season ticket costs £100.

Federation keep close watch on club finances

OF particular interest to English soccer followers must be the fact that the German Football Federation (DFB) are keeping a watchful eye over the ways in which the Bundesliga clubs are running their finances.

Such debts as for example Chelsea have accumulated (over £3 million) would not be tolerated in Germany. Before the season began, the DFB withheld licences to eight professional clubs, including Werder Bremen from the top Division, because their debts were too high!

Not one of these clubs owes even half the money which makes Chelsea the biggest debtors in the Football League. After the eight threatened clubs hurriedly raised some money and obtained loans, the DFB decided to deny a licence just to the Bonner SC, from the Second Bundesliga North. The rest were warned as to their future spending especially on new players.

The newly promoted FC St. Pauli, local rivals of Hamburger SV, have tried to sign the Scottish striker Willie Pettigrew (Motherwell) and were allowed to bid no more than £200,000. Though the clubs had agreed terms, the player was apparently holding out for more money for himself, so that the deal fell through.

Here is the list of the most important transfers concluded in the off-season:

Borussia Mönchengladbach: engaged — Lienen (Bielefeld), Schäfer (Karlsruhe). Departed: Stielike (to Real Madrid), Schalke: eng. — Gross (Tennis Bor. Berlin). Dep. Obak (to Bayern Munich). **Eintracht Brunswick:** eng. — Borg (Oerebro, Sweden), Breitner (Real Madrid). Dep. Stolzenbrug to Duisburg). **Eintracht Frankfurt:** eng. — Skala (Offenbach). **Cologne:** Dep. — Overath (retired). **Hamburger SV:** eng. — Buljan (Hajduk Split), Keegan (Liverpool) Dep. Björnmose (retired), Ettmayer (Lugano), Blankenburg (still negotiating abroad). **Bayern Munich:** eng. — Janzon (Karlsruhe), Oblak (Schalke), Rausch (Offenbach). Dep. Beckenbauer (New York Cos-), Andersson (Oester, Sweden), Torstensson (FC Zürich). **Borussia Dortmund:** eng. — Schneider (Duisburg), Held, Theis (both Offenbach). **Fortuna Düsseldorf:** eng. — Lund (Rotweiss Essen), Dep. Geye (Kaiserslautern). **Kaiserslautern:** eng. — Geye (Düsseldorf), Wendt (tennis Borussia Berlin). Dep. Sandberg (retired). **VfB Stuttgart:** eng. — Hattenberger (Fortuna Cologne), Kelsch (Stuttgarter Kickers).

News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil

PUSKAS TEAM TOP IN CHILE

by ERIC WEIL

URUGUAY'S elimination from the World Cup has resulted in a sharp drop in gates and the Uruguayan FA estimated that this has been as much as 40 per cent so far this season in comparison to last.

The general opinion is that the decline in Uruguayan soccer can be attributed to (a) the bad administration of pro soccer; (b) centralizing the championship with 25 professional clubs in Montevideo — a city of barely a million inhabitants; (c) the lack of coaches with modern tactical ideas and methods; (d) the emigration of most of the best players to other countries where they can earn more and (e) the low standard of those left at home who have little incentive (cash and otherwise) to improve their play.

Uruguayans are meanwhile putting their hopes on the (amateur) junior team which won the South American junior championships in Venezuela recently and went on to take fourth place in the first Junior World Cup in Tunisia in July . . . and fans are turning their backs on the professional game and going in ever greater numbers to watch amateur soccer played on some 100 fields all over Montevideo every week-end.

Encounter

Meanwhile Nacional maintained their two point lead over eternal rivals Peñarol in the Major League by drawing their classic encounter 1-1 even though they had two defenders sent off and now, with only one game to go at press time, they are sure of at least finishing in top place. Only Peñarol can catch them up.

●CHILE'S most popular club, Colo Colo, coached this season by former Hungarian star Ferenc Puskas, tops the first division jointly with Lota Schwager (who have played a match more) after Aviacion, the early season sensation who went unbeaten through their first nine matches, lost the next two and dropped six points out of eight to lose the lead.

But Avicion are still only two points from the top as only two points separate the top five in the league.

Yet in spite of the close league fight, it's the same story of falling gates after elimination from the World Cup. One Santiago newspaper recently estimated that losses of Chilean clubs would total four million dollars this season and that the state-run football pools and advertising profits would cover barely half of this.

●IN PERU, modest Deportivo Junin lead by four points after only six matches, all of which they have won.

But the championship has so far been played without national team players and their return, now that Peru has qualified for the World Cup finals, should make a difference. Sporting Cristal, for example, with seven internationals away, only managed to gain their first victory in their sixth game to get off the foot of the table.

●COLOMBIA'S Atletico Junior, from Barunquilla, won the "Apertura" championship with last year's Colombian vice-champions, Deportivo Cali taking second place to qualify, along with the winners, for the end of season championship round.

The start of the second half of the season — the 'Finalizacion" championship — was held up for a couple of weeks until after the South American World Cup final round played in Cali.

●VENEZUELA'S champions, Portuguesa, won the Venezuela Cup — the opening tournament of the season — by beating Valencia in the final.

In the semi-finals, between teams which finished in the top two places of the two groups, Portuguesa beat Deportivo Italia 3-2 and Valencia beat Estudiantes 1-0.

●ECUADOR'S Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) won the national opening championship A group with one game to go and earn three points to carry into the final round of the championship at the end of the season.

The second and third placed clubs (yet to be decided between Emelec, Barcelona and Universidad Catolica) will earn two and one point respectively with which to start the final round. Meanwhile two other Quito clubs, Aucas (one of the country's most popular) and Nacional (last season's champions) are still in danger of relegation, while America (Quito) are already assured of going down. Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Cuenca) and Deportivo Manta have won promotion from group B.

At press time, league championships were just re-starting in Argentina (after a break for seven home international games), Brazil (after the country's series of international games and participation in the South American final round for the World Cup) and Paraguay.

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NEWS FROM FRANCE
by Andre Duclos

THE Saint Etienne team, drawn to meet Manchester United in the Cup-winners' Cup, considerably reinforced itself with two expensive new forwards, Jacques Zimako and Andre Bathelemy. At the same time, they have "lost" one of their finest midfielders, and their captain, in Jean-Michel Larqué, who has rather surprisingly become manager of the ambitious Paris Saint Germain club.

Saint Etienne did need new forwards, but now they have strikers in superabundance. Just look at them all! The coloured Zimako, a right winger, took part in France's impressive tour of South America, after an excellent season with the Corsican club, Bastia. But as we all know, Saint Etienne already possess one of the finest outside-rights in the world in Dominique Rocheteau.

True, they looked seriously short of forwards at the end of last season when only the resuscitation of the veteran Hervé Revelli, centre-forward of great experience, enabled them to pull themselves together and to win the Cup. Now Revelli senior has been deputed player-manager of the Third Division team, but it is expected that he will keep himself in readiness for the first eleven: in which his younger brother, Partick, will be operating, again.

André Barthelemy comes from Angers. He was rather a late arrival in professional football, but he has done well. Last season, in what was by and large a poor side, he still managed to put 18 goals in the net, which earned him fifth place among the Championship's scorers. He is not a great ball player, cannot in that sense be compared with the likes of such younger men as Pécout of Nantes and Pascal Francoise of Lens, but as against that he has a great flair for goal, and plenty of the necessary courage.

Jean-Michel Larqué may, like his old team mate Hervé Revelli, also find himself pulling on his boots again in the First Division. Goodness knows that, at 31, he is still young enough, though he has been somewhat guarded when questioned on the subject. There's an interesting comparison here with his ex-club mate and ex-manager, Robert Herbin, who was also quite capable of holding his own for some seasons when he decided to hang up his boots and manage Saint Etienne.

Deal misfired

Larqué insisted that if he did accept the managership of Paris Saint Germain, a number of signings be made. The most important of them is quite unquestionably the big, prolific Argentinian centre-forward, Carlos Bianchi, who will probably go home to play for his country in the World Cup, next year. It looks as if the Red Star stopper, Radovic, will also be around, but an attempt to sign little Serge Chiesa, the Lyons forward, did not succeed. Chiesa did come to Paris and seemed at first to accept terms, then made demands which, some thought, were deliberately intended to see that the deal misfired. Chiesa, you may recall, is the man who won't play for France anymore because, he says, it interferes with his private life, a great talent, but a somewhat perplexing and frustrating one.

Nantes are expected to go from strength to strength, but they have, as we know, a hard European Cup opponent in Dukla. Jean Vincent has made some interesting remarks about Robert Gadocha, the superb Polish left winger who was a major star of the 1974 World Cup, a coveted capture by Nantes, but last season lost his place in the Nantes team.

Vincent, a famous left winger himself, of course, observes that he has nothing against Gadocha, that he admires his technical qualities (who doesn't?) but is less convinced by his "collective" virtues. When his three youngsters, Pécout, Baronchelli and Amisse got back from last year's Olympic Games tournament in Montreal, he was most impressed by the way they worked together.

This induced him to leave out Gadocha eventually in their favour. You can hardly say that he was wrong, given the fact that Nantes went on to win the Championship and that all three youngsters had admirable seasons. Vincent says that Gadocha did in fact have a positive effect on the club, pushing the young players, by his very presence on the sidelines, to great feats. "Without Gadocha, it is not at all certain that Amisse would have exploded so rapidly as he perhaps would not have worked so hard."

A little rough on Gadocha, though, who must have wondered wryly what would have happened had the Poles allowed him to join Bayern Munich, as he originally wished.

Bernard Bosquier is in the wars again. Hired by his old club, Marseille, to negotiate players' contracts, he resigned in a rage when a member of the new group putting money into the club publicly and quite gratuitously accused him of making money on the deals. Bosquier was of course the man who, along with Carnus, scandalised French football by signing a contract for Marseille when he was still playing for Saint Etienne, six years ago.

He was stopper, and captain, Carnus the keeper. The fiery Saint Etienne President, banished both men from the team (it was the season before freedom of contract came in) and a demoralised Saint Etienne slid down the table to allow Marseille to win a Championship which till then had seemed beyond their reach.

Later, Bosquier was suspended for refusing to play for France. He says now, with much bitterness, that professional footballers are not supposed to be able to think, and still believes that his withdrawal from the French national team — to make way, he insists, for younger men — was fully justified. He certainly does seem to have been brusquely treated in the present instance, though. Poor Marseille. Always in the wars.

ABOVE: Platini, France's best forward, tried to get past Argentina's best man, half Ardiles, in the friendly international in Buenos Aires in which no goals were scored. BELOW: France's goalkeeper Baratelli and Tresor try to stop an Argentine attack headed by Trosero with Houseman behind.

Zimako and Bathelemy reinforce Etienne

by PETER BILLS

Bonhof looks to Valencia

WILL West Germany lose perhaps its most promising, artistic player once this season and the 1978 World Cup Finals have finished? Football authorities in the 'Bundesliga', mindful of the rapid departure of Paul Breitner after the 1974 finals and, more recently, Borussia's Uli Stielicke, are wondering Borussia's Rainher Bonhof will follow on the road to Spain.

Rainer Bonhof (left) and Udo Lattek.

Breitner's comparatively brief Spanish sojourn was hardly a roaring success. Breitner's stay at legendary Real Madrid coincided with a slump in the Spanish club's fortunes. Real couldn't lift themselves to the heights — and Breitner couldn't do much to lift them, either. Not even that outstanding second leg success against Derby County in the 1975-76 season, could provide the necessary impetus for Real to land another European title.

But none of that worries Bonhof. He sees a Spanish contract as a chance to earn the top cash of a leading European player, with the added advantage of some amiable tax laws. And Borussia, finalists in the European Cup against Liverpool last season, see this year as their last chance to land the most coveted of Euro-trophies, with Bonhof in the fold.

Coach Udo Lattek confesses: "I think Bonhof will go to Spain. And maybe we would have to sell him anyway. We had to sell Gunter Netzer and Henning Jensen to Real to raise some money and I think that without the European Cup to raise our finances we would need the money Bonhof's transfer would bring.

"We needed to win the Cup for both the money it would have brought us and to enable us to pay our best players to stay with us. Now we have lost it, I am not certain what will happen. There is so much more money in the European Cup than any of the other European competitions.

Motivate

"Money will motivate Rainher to leave us and go to Spain. We cannot pay him the same money that he can earn there when we have crowds of only about 34,500 for our League matches. Barcelona and Real Madrid can attract 90,000 to 100,000 for just one League game — it is hard for other European clubs to rival that.

"In Germany, Rainher will pay perhaps 56 percent in tax. But in Spain, it is so much less. Maybe more players will move to Spain from our top German clubs — it would not surprise me at all if they do."

Bonhof says: "I cannot say what will happen by next summer. But I have agreed a deal with Valencia although perhaps a lot can happen in a year. I do not know what will happen at the moment: we must wait to see, if the transfer goes through.

"I would like the chance to go to Spain. I feel it would make anyone a better player to have experience of playing abroad. And that is my aim — to be a better player — although playing for Valencia must come after the World Cup as far as I am concerned."

Elegance

For sheer natural elegance and ability on the field, Bonhof looks like facing few challengers in the West German side in South America next summer. And the classy German has achieved his phenomenal rise in World soccer in the course of barely four years.

It was only at the final moment of West German preparations at Munich in 1974 that Bonhof emerged as a player of rare promise. He came from relative obscurity in the German squad to play a notable part in his country's success. Now, with players like Beckenbauer, Overath, Grabowski and Holzenbein all fading from international football, Bonhof seems certain to play a leading role in Argentina.

What of Germany's — and Bonhof's — chances next summer? The German from Moenchengladbach says: "Our football can stay on top of the world even though it will be very hard for any European side in South America. It depends on the persistence and ability of our players to come to terms with the unusual conditions. If we can do that as individuals, we can show we are one of the best sides in the world."

Dangle

Meanwhile, the Bonhof-Valencia deal is held in abeyance. But despite the big Spanish clubs ability to dangle tasty carrots in front of leading European players, the deal could still hit snags. Cruyff's failure to fulfil Barca officials' great dream of landing the European Cup: Johnny Rep's inability to settle successfully in Valencia, and the mediocre performance once on Spanish soil of so many, including Breitner, Netzer, Jensen and Barca's Peruvian Hugo Sotil, might yet hold up the deal.

It could well be that Bonhof will decide success in the crack *Bundesliga* is a better bet than the tax-haven trip to Spain. Consider, too, the recent devaluation of the struggling peseta. That could mean a poor financial return for Bonhof if he went back to Germany in a year or two.

It's an involved and detailed problem that requires not just a footballing brain to decipher — but, perhaps more importantly, a financial wizard to determine the best course to take and, in consequence, say yes or no.

Bonhof's sports car in the players' car park at Borussia Monchengladbach.

Sixth Avenue criticism

WHENEVER I write anything disparaging in these, or any other columns, about the NASL, there is, I know, wailing and gnashing of teeth on the other side of the Atlantic; to be precise, in the NASL offices on Sixth Avenue, New York.

Let me say at once that basically I wish the NASL well, that I have been delighted at the splendid progress in attendance figures this season, that I fully believe that in time they will be a rich, powerful and important League, and that Phil Woosnam, the Commissioner, will be properly rewarded for the dogged devotion, the sustained belief and ingenuity, he has shown these many years.

Nevertheless, I shall continue to call a spade a spade, and to say that the NASL is still a very long way yet — even if it were not for the perverse fiasco of its 35 yards offside law — from being Major League (and drivel me not that "small fields" necessitate such a wanton heresy).

Dear gentlemen of the NASL offices, write me, please, no more piqued and embattled letters, telling me that I know not of what I write, that I have not been there to see the miraculous improvement in your football. Your very bulletins continue, in their admirably comprehensive way, to tell me all I need to know.

You will just have to forgive me if I cannot believe that at the drop of a hat, the wave of a wand, players of modest capacities — in England — have been transformed suddenly into shining stars. Derek Smethurst, for example, a South African who was a useful striker in his Chelsea days, some eight or so years ago, a fair performer with Millwall, and has blossomed suddenly into the terror of Tampa: scorer of another three goals, I notice, against hapless Los Angeles: and George Best.

There's Ade Coker, too, a little Nigerian centre-forward I have sincerely admired ever since I saw him playing, and being clattered by the resourceful John Lacy, in a match for West Ham A against London University, at Motspur Park. He had a delightful touch, lacked physique, but is now good enough to whack in three for Minnesota in a 4-0 home win over Seattle, with Mike England at centre-half. The Mike England I knew a few years ago wouldn't have permitted Coker a kick. Or perhaps just one.

All is relative, but while the composition of the NASL teams remains as and how it is, you will, dear gentlemen of Sixth Avenue, forgive me if I do not yet join the joyfully converted. Even if Beckenbauer *is* there.

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

KEN SHELLITO, I fervently hope, will succeed. I hope so for a variety of reasons. First because I have known him for many years — since his playing days, in fact — and like him as an honest, decent, dedicated man.

Secondly because I feel that in a sense it is terribly hard on such "backroom boys" to be thrust willy nilly into the light.

As coach to the Chelsea juniors, and a very good one, Shellito brought through any number of impressive young players, among then Stanley and the Wilkins'.

Yet the qualities demanded of a youth team coach and those required of a manager running a Metropolitan First Division side are manifestly and abundantly different. Shellito clearly hopes he can maintain some kind of a "players' co-operative", leading by influence and example rather than by command.

It's an admirable ambition, but alas though you may not change when you move up from youth level, the youths themselves inevitably do when exposed to the pressures of highly paid, highly competitive League football, in the wen of London. There is a touch of Candide about Ken and I just hope, good fellow that he is, that he will not be disappointed.

MILJAN MILJANIC would still, I hear, be happy to manage an English club, even if it did mean a drop in salary. In the meantime he remains in Madrid, by the skin of his teeth, for a third season with Real.

The story goes that the directors wanted to dismiss him, after a disastrously unsuccessful season which saw Real out of Europe for the first time in memory, but that the ageing Santiago Bernabeu had, as usual, the last word. This was to the effect that Miljanic was still under contract for another year at £85,000 per annum, and that he would have to be paid. In Bernabeu's view, it was much more sensible to spend that money on a new player.

So Miljanic is still there, while Real have added to their roster Stielike from West Germany, and the talented little Spanish international winger from Burgos, Juanito, not to mention the blond Argentinian sweeper Wolff, from Las Palmas.

Juanito, who has had an interesting and odd career, allowed to drift away by Atletico Madrid after an injury, is already lamenting the fact that his former club haven't paid him all they owe him while Real haven't paid him enough. A promising start.

MORE and more clubs these days seem to be adopting a managerial policy of what one might call Buggins' Turn: inspired, perhaps, by Liverpool. I do not remotely mean to be impolite, to imply that by promoting the next in line, they have made a mistake. Not a bit of it.

Liverpool, quite demonstrably, have not made a mistake at all in promoting quiet, shrewd, loyal Bob Paisley. In winning not only the League but the European Cup, he has surpassed even his remarkable mentor, Bill Shankly. Bravo. At Wolverhampton, I confess that I was doubtful of the wisdom of the club in promoting in immediate succession to the defenestrated Bill McGarry his number two, Sammy Chung.

More of same, I thought that it would be. But Sammy Chung, and all credit to him, proved me wrong. He brought the Wolves straight back into the First Division. Now Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers have been doing the self-same thing. Chelsea, having parted company in such bizarre circumstances with Eddie McCreadie, have pushed up quiet Ken Shellito to the managerial position.

Professional

Queens Park Rangers, losing Dave Sexton, have made his assistant, Frank Sibley, their team manager. Just as in the case of Bob Paisley, these two are men who have spent their whole professional career, both as players and as managers, with their clubs.

Now, in promoting such men to the managership you are clearly taking a certain risk and making a certain calculation. You are hoping, perhaps anticipating, that their long and loyal connection with the club, their diligent working in the shadow of a distinguished predecessor, will equip them to take over. As against that, you must always fear that perhaps they were the number two because this is their station and their calling in life.

In confess I thought this might be so in the case of Bob Paisley, for so long working loyally but obscurely in the shadow of Shankly. Once out of that shadow, however, Paisley quickly proved that he has a mind and a method of his own. On the other hand, the promotion of little Joe Brown to succeed Jimmy Adamson at Burnley, though he too had been a Burnley player, had worked long years under Adamson, did not end happily at all. The team foundered, Brown was dismissed.

A HOTLY

ROSARIO, Argentina's second largest town with a populat of almost one million, is the nearest World Cup venue Buenos Aires — 312 km away — yet it is here where prepa tions have been more of a mystery than elsewhere.

From the outset there was a bitter struggle between town's two first division clubs, Rosario Central and Newe Old Boys, to host six preliminary round World Cup gam while the rest of the town hoped they would both be pas over in favour of a plan to build a new sports complex in suburb of Fisherton. The power struggle went in favour of entity with the most pull — Rosario Central — and today m are wondering whether it was the right choice.

The Central stadium, on which some 300 men are work and which seems to be half finished, can only be visited even by journalists — with a special permit which has to o.k.'d by the World Cup committee in Buenos Aires. T arrangement seemed too bureaucratic and time consum

Captain Carlos Lacoste — the man in charge of the 197 World Cup finals.

Stopp be co

LAST month *World Soccer's* KEIR RADNEDGE traced the career of Mario Kempes, one of the exiles Argentina are considering recalling for the World Cup Finals. This month the exile under the microscope is Saint-Etienne stopper OSVALDO PIAZZA.

WHAT MARKS the outstanding players is the ability to bring a new dimension to an old idea.

For a Johan Cruyff, perhaps, it's a new trick in a close one-two: for a Roberto Rivelino it's an original variation on a free kick just outside the penalty box. For a Franz Beckenbauer it's a new interpretation of a particular position.

In his case as sweeper. Or, in the case of Oswaldo Piazza (or, Oswaldo as they prefer in France) the demanding role of stopper.

Piazza has been one of Saint-Etienne's two or three most consistent players during their past five years of triumph at home and in Europe. Not only scoring vital goals against Dynamo Kiev, PSV Eindhoven (twice) and CSKA Sofia, but holding their top marksmen, too.

As he recalls proudly: "My idea isn't just to mark the opposing centre forward, but to make sure that he has to mark *me* too. Gerd Muller had to do that at Hampden in the 1976 Champions' Cup Final."

Piazza is also proud to recall that in three Champions' Cup games — the semi-finals in 1975 and the final in 1976 — Müller didn't score at all. What Piazza sometimes forgets to mention, however, is that it was after his foul on Müller that Franz Roth hit the winning goal at Hampden, from Franz Beckenbauer's touched free kick.

Müller, Leeds' Joe Jordan and fellow Argentine Carlos Bianchi (now Paris Saint-Germain) are the three strikers Piazza rates the most dangerous he has taken on.

"But I haven't been a success because of my Argentine technique," he says. "What's served me best has been the kind of virtues you might expect more in a European player. My strength is to be able to cover so much of the pitch, without needing to concentrate full-time on just the one job. If I've brought anything to French football I hope it's in showing that a stopper's role can be constructive — not solely destructive."

Piazza, however, has been fortunate in being able to demonstrate the value of his progressive ideas in a team like Saint-Etienne where the players are in harmony, have played together for a long time and know how and when to swap positions to cover the ramblings of their strong-willed Argentine.

Piazza has been fortunate, too, in meeting a coach in Robert Herbin willing to give him his head.

He explains: "I don't want to limit myself to being the shadow of the opposing centre-forward. When I win the ball I want to go forward behind it, try to give our attack numerical superiority, put pressure on the opposing sweeper.

"Robert Herbin accepts all this — which is excellent. I think this kind of honest exchange of ideas between players and coach is one of the positive sides of football in France, and Saint-Etienne in particular."

But, even at Saint-Etienne, Piazza's views wouldn't be granted the respect they receive if he didn't show a high regard for his responsibilities. He lives a quiet life — but a very comfy one. He and his wife Norma live in a beautiful apartment, run two cars, — His and Hers, a Peugeot and a Renault — and is generally of excellent character, as much off the pitch as on.

He understands full well how costly the odd indiscretions can be.

Yellow card

In the closing stages of the Champions' Cup quarter-final with Liverpool, Piazza was shown the yellow card for fouling Ian Callaghan. It was his second of the competition and meant his vital strength was missing as Saint-Etienne went to Anfield to lose 3-1 and slide out.

Piazza explains: "I'd already had a tussle with Jimmy Case and I hadn't heard the whistle go. The incident with Callaghan was more spectacular than violent — and certainly not vicious.

"They asked me to join the television commentary team for the second leg, which I thought I might as well do, to keep occupied. But that defeat really stuck in my throat. Afterwards, for days, I couldn't get it out of my head that I had been responsible for our elimination . . ."

But Piazza has known a series of triumphs since joining *Les Verts* in the summer of 1972. Champions in 1974, 1975 and 1976, they also won the Cup in 1974, 1975 (he scored the winner against Lens) and this year too. In 1975 they reached the Champions' Cup semi-finals, the final in 1976, and the quarter-finals this season past.

All this exposure at top level — with Saint-Etienne's games being televised throughout Europe — established Piazza, at 30, as one of the top players in his position in the world.

That's really progress for the man who, when he left Argentina, was hardly known outside his own country. True, he had played half a dozen times for Argentina, including a 0-0 draw against France in the Brazilian-staged mini-World Cup of 1972. But he was from an unfashionable team, in Lanus, and there was no uproar. No-one believed, in 1972, that they were losing a man they would wish so fervently to recall five years later.

Piazza, born on April 6, 1947, came from a family of seven children. He had four brothers and two sisters — one brother would play with him, as a goalkeeper, for a while at Lanus later on. But in fact Piazza was fortunate to ever go so far.

In 1959, at 12, he was enrolled in the youth organisation of the powerful Independiente of Avallaneda. Piazza had been a fan of River Plate and the great Angel Labruna, but his dreams of emulating his hero were dashed when he injured an ankle. For two years it was all he could do to walk, let alone run and kick a football.

But, though he started work in a shop after leaving school, and took up an apprenticeship in the evenings, he never gave up hope. At 16 he wormed his way into the Lanus youth teams. He was playing in midfield in those

DISPUTED CHOICE

so the stadium renovation had to remain a mystery. But it seems that it is being renovated at tremendous cost to bring it up to World Cup standards and when the job is finished — reportedly by the end of the year — it will take in a bigger proportion of spectators seated, but will still hold only 50,000 — the same capacity it had before work started.

The high cost includes improving the surrounding landscape and approaches and while Rosario is a rather drab town and can certainly do with all this, it is a pity the organisers clashed with the prestigious Club de Regatas Rosario alongside when part of the latter's land had to be requisitioned for building purposes. (Actually the land belongs partly to the municipality, but it annulled a 25-year lease the rowing club had on it so that work could continue.) Nevertheless work, scheduled to take a minimum of nine months (although not affecting the stadium itself) is presently held up while the case has gone to court.

Little of this however concerns the soccer world at large. The stadium should be ship-shape in good time and a new press centre is going up in the centre of town. More communication lines (phone and telex) have yet to be put in here and one problem I can foresee here is accommodation.

Statistics put the hotel beds available at 4,700 — which is hardly enough. There is some enlarging of hotels going on, but any major increase is out of the question. Rosario never has been or never will be a tourist centre. Any new hotel space will merely remain as a "white elephant" after the World Cup.

The danger here — as at other venues where accommodation is tight — is that prices charged will be sky high, unless the government keeps a tight control.

● A total of 5,377 journalists from 77 countries have applied for preaccreditation to cover next year's World Cup finals, the largest contingent from abroad being 426 journalists representing 59 newspapers, magazines, radio stations and TV networks in Brazil.

● The opening ceremony at the River Plate stadium in Buenos Aires will be a "novel and brilliant" affair lasting exactly 64 minutes, but no further details will be given so as to make it a surprise.

er's role can nstructive...

days, wearing the No. 5 shirt which, in Argentina, still corresponds to the old-fashioned centre-half.

Tactically, the South Americans developed differently to Europe. While Europe went from the old-fashioned centre-half to the stopper, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay moved more or less directly from the old game to their own versions of 4-2-4 (and later, of course, 4-3-3 and 4-4-2).

In Argentina this means that the man who wears No. 5 plays in midfield, the No. 4 at right-back, and the No. 2 as a central defender. Well, Piazza at this time wore the No. 5 shirt, but, soon after making his first team debut under ex-international defender Pedro Dallacha in 1968, he was moved back into the middle of the defence.

He'd already given up his shop work. Now he called off his studies as well to concentrate full-time on soccer . . . and wonder, sometimes, whether it was all worthwhile. All his early earnings he saved to set his wife up in a boutique, so they would always have something to fall back on.

But even that was barely enough in 1970 when Lanus fell on such hard times that for six months the players received only promises instead of wages and bonuses.

"I nearly lost my home that year," recalls Piazza. It wasn't the only time he had pay problems. Late in 1971 he asked Lanus for a pay rise. After lengthy negotiations, during which Piazza threatened to quit soccer (he couldn't go through with that when it came to the crunch!) he re-signed, on more or less the clubs terms.

So, when, six months later, Pierre Garonnaire came along with a modest offer from Saint-Etienne, both Lanus and Piazza jumped at it. The fee was about £40,000, the signing-on bonus for Piazza about £15,000 — and, typically, he insisted on splitting half of it with his Lanus team-mates.

Five years further on, Piazza's signing appears a wonderful piece of judgment by Garonnaire. In fact, at the time, it was more of a desperation move. The man who is better known for digging out young talent in France than leading a big-money hunt abroad, had spent almost a month in Argentina looking for a player to bolster his team.

He saw Piazza playing in midfield in a game Lanus lost 3-2 against Boca Juniors. Piazza had obviously done enough to impress. But not with technique, or his shot, or organisational ability.

Later Garonnaire would say: "We bought Piazza, because of his . . . spirit".

Determination and strength of character were everything. Garonnaire considered other highly-rated players, such as Hugo Bargas (now Nantes) and Ramon Heredia (now Atletico Madrid). But in the end it was the aura of indestructibility around Piazza which won the day.

Not that Piazza found it easy to adapt when he landed in France.

"So much was different. People often don't think about how little things can affect you. The climate in France is different, so is the food, the language, of course. And nobody helped me. Not that I blame them for that. After all, there were 20 players all trying to get into one team. No-one was going to do me any favours."

On top of that Piazza was soon injured. And, when he was fit to return, he found in his place a new youngster named Dominique Bathenay. So, when Herbin asked Piazza to play on the right wing because he couldn't drop the youngster, Piazza had to be realistic and agree.

"I wasn't too happy about that. But now I don't regret it. It was useful experience. I scored two goals in four games and when I went back into the middle of the defence after we were beaten 5-1 by Metz, I suddenly found I had acclimatised. Both to France, and to Saint-Etienne."

Piazza is one of the idols among the fans, but he concedes that he's not the top-paid player in France. His boots bring him a sponsorship fee, and he gets a share-out from the sponsorship by Manufrance — the arms manufacturers — who advertise on the club shirts.

Apart from that he accepts calmly enough the facts that 40 per cent of his earnings go in tax and that if he were a player in Italy, Spain or even England he might be earning more.

Piazza intends to return home for good in 1980. But before that, Argentina's recent results ensure he stands an excellent chance of going back earlier, next summer, to play for his country in the World Cup Finals.

"I'd be proud to play in the Finals," he said, "but I'm not sure myself whether it is really possible. Look what happened to Bargas. He went to West Germany, played a game and a half, they put him in a different position and ruined him. It took him six months to find his feet again at Nantes. . . .

"I think my experience could be useful. But I find the idea a surprise, since at first Cesar Menotti said he had no intention of calling up us exiles."

World Soccer photographer

PETER ROBINSON

presents his

South American portfolio

TOP LEFT: World Soccer correspondent Paul Gardner (left) looks round the River Plate stadium in Buenos Aires. MIDDLE LEFT: A typical scene at South American grounds as riot police prepare for trouble. BOTTOM LEFT: A plaque at the Maracana Stadium commemorates Pele's 1,000 goals. TOP RIGHT: Rivelino celebrates in spectacular style after scoring for Brazil. BOTTOM: The famous Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro.

DEL MUNDIAL 78
PELÉ
DÊSTE VESTIÁRIO VOCÊ PARTIU
PARA MUITOS GOLS.
DENTRE ÊLES O DE HOJE:
1000 GOLS
HOMENAGEM DA ADEC
AO ADMIRADO PRAIA

Looking back over eight years of Czech football

with ERIC BATTY

ONLY with really hard work and an efficiently organised, sympathetic and successful scouting and coaching scheme for young players can any team hope to get close to the top and stay there for any length of time.

Just how difficult it is to get the youth policy right is underlined by how many clubs live by the cheque book from season to season in Spain, Italy, England and elsewhere. Perhaps the truth is that the best coach in the club 'should be' with the youngsters, whereas in fact, the best coach in the clubs wants to be with the first team.

The Czechs of course cannot live by the cheque book because such transfers as we see in Western Europe are not allowed, and they are further handicapped in the development of young players through the somewhat stupid rule that bars players under 18 years from playing in the First Division.

Clearly many youngsters are not ready to do battle with men at 18. It is obvious too that men of 28 are often not psychologically prepared for stardom and this shows both in their play and their off-field activities. But equally, there have been a great many players who have made their debut in First Division football at very early ages. The youngest I know in England was a 15-year-old who played for Liverpool, but at 16 the numbers begin to swell and by 17, there is a flood across Western Europe.

To me it seems obvious that the Czechs are holding back their best young players, and with the additional burden of a one year stint in the armed forces to contend with, the development of good young players in Czechoslovakia is fraught with problems.

Clubs like Slavia, Sparta and Slovan have run boys' teams for many years but as far as I have ever been able to tell they are run in isolation from the club First team. When I've asked a First Division club manager what kind of talent he has at the 14-15 level, he has always held up his hand in front of his face and said: 'That is not my duty.'' The kids have their own coaches.

It is of course much the same in Western Europe. In England for example there are few managers who look forward to more than two or three years in one job. So knowing the axe may be waiting just around the corner, too many of them seem to ignore their schoolboy players completely. The thinking is: ''Why should I sweat blood to bring on kids for the benefit of someone else who will soon fill my manager's chair?''

But in Czechoslovakia the good managers usually spend a fair length of time with one club. Certainly long enough to make it worthwhile taking an interest in their Youth team, but no one seems to do so.

No one can say for example that Dukla Prague could have gone on dominating the Czech game after Ladislav Novak, Josef Masopust and Svatopluk Pluskal retired with all their colleagues of the late fifties. And while it would not have been easy to replace such illustrious figures, I feel sure that Dukla would have been better in their lean years had they seen to it that a steady stream of young players became available for promotion to the senior squad every year.

Against such a background it is not surprising that the pendulum has swung more violently in Czechoslovakia than for example in England and West Germany. Dukla Prague for example won the league title four times in a row between 1960 and 1964. Then after three seasons of fluctuating fortunes, Spartak Trnava came on to the scene to dominate from 1967-68 until well into the seventies.

Then there was another period when the championship was up on offer to almost anyone before Slovan Bratislava produced a settled, comparatively young team to win the Championship under Jozef Venglos.

Slovan were top dogs for several seasons, culminating in the 1974 European Championship finals in Yugoslavia when the Czechs took the title with a team that had Slovan for its backbone, just as Dukla had provided more than half the team that reached the World Cup final in 1962.

Although Dr. Venglos maintained friendly relations with Slovan throughout last season and kept his hand in by acting as assistant manager to Vaclav Jezek with the national team, the fact is that Venglos and the Slovan Committee could not agree on Venglos' proposals for modernising the club. That was why he spent 1976-77 on the sidelines.

Dukla, Trnava and Slovan all had their runs based on one group of players who were more or less the same age, but when the time came for replacements to be found, each club in turn, found that the youngsters they had were not good enough or not ready, and being unable to 'buy', their period of success naturally came to an end.

For the season just starting, Dr. Venglos is back in command of Slovan but before he can restore the club to its former position it seems to me there is much to be done. This is not to say that the young players are not available, not having seen their Under 18 team last season I could not know. But what I do know is that several of the championship winning team need to be replaced.

Reinforcements

For their last European Cup campaign Slovan were eager to sign the Spartak Trnava midfield general Ladislav Kuna, who by my reckoning was an outstanding player at his peak. He could have made a big difference to Slovan — but the transfer was vetoed.

Now Alexander Vencel, the goalkeeper, has gone. A veteran for both club and country, Vencel played just one international too many, having a stinker in his last game against Wales at Wrexham. A tragic end to a long and often glorious career, for in many seasons, Vencel played better than Dukla's Ivo Viktor.

Slovan have an almost ready made replacement in Tibor Matula, a 25-year-old who played quite a few games last season when Vencel was out with a back injury. Jan Pivarnik, Anton Ondrus, Koloman Gogh are still there, though international stopper Jozef Caphovic has left to do his army service and is now with Dukla Prague.

Up front things look fairly good, for though the only experienced striker still available is Marian Masny, a player whose international career might well be over now, he is still more than useful at club level. They have reinforcements too in this sector, in the shape of centre forward Peter Galis, the man whose Bratislava goal headed England out of the 1976 European championship. He comes from VSS Kosice, and presumably got FA permission to move, only because his club were relegated during the summer. But Dr. Venglos should be able to make good use of him, even if he was out of form for Kosice last season.

But it is in midfield that Slovan have their biggest problems. Even in the years when they took the title in the seventies the midfield sector has been their weakness — and in my opinion, the reason why

Results of the Czech First Division since 1969-70:

	TOTAL							HOME							AWAY						
					GOALS							GOALS							GOALS		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Slovan	240	115	57	68	396	247	287	120	96	22	8	283	73	202	120	36	35	60	113	174	86
2. Trnava	240	106	65	69	339	241	277	120	85	25	10	246	72	195	120	21	40	59	93	169	82
3. Dukla	240	102	66	72	352	273	270	120	73	32	15	219	93	178	120	29	34	57	133	180	92
4. Slavia	240	96	52	92	312	304	244	120	76	26	18	214	100	178	120	20	26	74	98	204	66
5. Ostrava	240	87	70	83	281	279	244	120	64	38	18	187	87	166	120	23	32	65	94	192	78
6. Teplice	240	89	64	87	298	301	242	120	87	30	8	215	65	194	120	7	34	79	73	216	48
7. VSS Kosice	240	90	56	94	349	332	236	120	75	30	15	252	100	180	120	15	26	79	97	232	56
8. Zilina	240	91	52	97	317	301	234	120	78	24	18	245	108	180	120	13	28	79	72	223	54
9. Inter	210	90	44	76	315	258	224	105	78	18	11	230	73	170	105	14	26	65	85	180	54
10. Sparta	210	85	46	79	288	291	216	105	69	24	12	193	88	162	105	16	22	67	95	203	54
11. L. Kosice	210	82	44	84	300	295	208	105	67	20	18	220	95	154	105	15	24	66	80	200	54
12. Brno	180	66	47	67	239	251	179	90	60	19	11	178	73	139	90	6	28	56	61	181	40
13. Plzen	180	62	38	80	219	282	162	90	57	23	10	147	60	137	90	5	15	70	72	219	25
14. Presov	150	55	40	55	158	169	150	75	48	21	6	121	37	117	75	7	19	49	37	132	33
15. Bohemians	150	46	48	56	139	197	140	75	39	27	9	127	65	105	75	7	21	47	52	132	35
16. Trencin	150	48	39	63	168	226	135	75	43	20	12	110	54	106	75	5	19	51	58	172	29
17. Trnava	150	45	37	68	150	195	127	75	41	21	13	112	54	103	75	4	16	55	38	141	24
18. Nitra	120	42	33	55	137	186	107	60	38	16	6	102	46	92	60	4	7	49	35	141	15
19. Jablonec	60	19	14	27	56	87	52	30	13	8	3	45	22	46	30	6	6	24	11	65	6
20. Gottwaldov	60	13	13	34	56	101	39	30	9	10	11	32	33	28	30	4	3	23	26	68	11
21. Frydek-Mistek	30	8	7	15	35	48	23	15	6	4	5	25	22	16	15	2	3	10	10	26	7
22. Hradec Kralove	30	9	5	16	35	55	23	15	9	4	2	20	9	22	15	0	1	14	5	46	1
23. Kladno	30	7	7	16	29	61	21	15	7	5	3	18	13	19	15	0	2	13	11	48	2

The Czechoslovakian national team which lost to Wales last year.

they have never shone in European competition. They have some fair players, but not the great one that all the best teams must have in midfield.

In the absence of one great midfield general with two adequate lieutenants on his flanks, a top club can get by with three very good players playing together in midfield. But despite their international experience, players like Juraj Novotny and Jan Medvid are not of the required quality.

But before Slovan get back amongst the big guns in the European Cup, it is first the turn of Dukla Prague, under the guidance once more of Jaroslav Vejvoda. He has been around enough to know what is required and he has some very good young players at his disposal. Top names of course are Zdenek Nehoda, currently the CSSR's leading international striker and Vaclav Samek a really useful long serving defender of international experience.

How Dukla get on will depend largely on the form of inside left Miroslav Gajdusek. I've seen he has a good left foot — but I have never seen him play well, though many people I respect tell me that I have chosen bad days, and that he 'can be' really top grade.

Others Dukla will look to are goalkeeper Jaroslav Netolicka who played superbly when I saw him, and now with Ivo Viktor retiring, the number one choice. Dukla are lucky to have him.

Other young players look almost as gifted. Men like Stanislav Pelc (22), Ladislav Vizek (22) and Ivan Bilsky, also 22. Then there is Jan Svehlik, the former Slovan international centre forward who never impressed me much, and of course stopper Jan Capkovic, on loan for a year from Slovan.

Amongst the bosses lined up for domestic campaign are Jozef Marko (World Cup 1970) with ZVL Zilina; Arnost Hlozek back from Austria to take over Sparta Praha; and Tomas Pospichal who takes over Bohemians of Prague, though I'm sure their poor showing last term was no fault of ex-manager Bohumil Musil.

Among the others who keep their seats are Masopust at Brno, Jaroslav Jares at Slavia (who has still to convince me) and Valerian Svec who did well last season with Internacional Bratislava.

Though as I have said, clubs like Dukla, Spartak Trnava and Slovan could have gone on dominating for longer spells had they had better youth development within their clubs, the fact is that over the last eight years they remain amongst the most successful as the figures below serve to underline.

One parting shot. With Karol Dobias leaving Spartak Trnava for Bohemians, and knowing that it was largely due to him that Trnava were not relegated last season, a small bet on them for the drop would not be too far out.

History of Athletic Bilbao—part two—by Keir Radnedge

MANY facets of the club makes Athletic Bilbao unique in Spanish football — not least the fact that the bank balance is very much in the black. While Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Valencia are deeply in the red, in some cases to the tune of more than £1 million, Bilbao manage to keep the books straight. It hasn't always been easy. In the early sixties they had to sell their only star, defender Jesus Garay, to Barcelona, to be able to afford to bring the Campo San Mames up to scratch. But now the club's officials can talk about a new stadium without worrying about the financial ifs and buts.

BILBAO IN THE BLACK!

The new stadium would hold 70,000, with massive car parking. But a scheme which was once ready for take-off has now been put into cold storage — partly because of the economic malaise in Spain, partly because studies show that a new motorway near the proposed site would create as much of a bottleneck as there is now in the centre of town before a big match at San Mames.

Meanwhile Bilbao try all they can to streamline operations.

Time and again the men who matter will tell you: Spanish football must become more professional. Now it's on the downgrade because television has opened up new sporting horizons, and the administration must change to keep pace with the times.

It's no longer enough for clubs to be run as hobbies by wealthy men willing to sign guarantees for the debts, and only move out when someone else is prepared to put his personal fortune at risk. In the next few years a wind of change will sweep Spanish football, as it is sweeping the country at large. Clubs will need to take on some form of limited liability and election of officers will need to go before all the members — not just a special clique.

When these changes come about, Bilbao will be ready. Many clubs will not, and Spanish football will continue to suffer.

In all of this Bilbao presents one more paradox — though the club rely solely on local-born and bred players, they have no scruples about importing coaches. Ronnie Allen and the Yugoslav, Milorad Pavic, were the last foreigners.

Allen took Bilbao to the Cup in 1969 and second place in the league in 1970, but though respected as a coach his relations with the Press and some of the other officials were strained. With Pavic it was different. The former Red Star and Standard Liege coach made so many friends and fitted in so well it became tricky when it was necessary for him to crack the whip.

"Pavic," I was told once, "is too fine a man to be a football manager."

Sports City

Nevertheless, whoever is coach to Bilbao — now it's 38-year-old former international right wing or midfielder Luis Maria "Koldo" Aguirre — is just one man in a team, all based at Lezama — Bilbao's out of town retiro-cum-coaching centre.

This isn't a sports city on the Real Madrid lines, but a practical aide to Bilbao's extensive coaching network which extends down to the Vizcaya schools through 500 scouts who keep detailed records of the progress of boys from the age of nine who show any aptitude for the game. Lezama includes 13 pitches, some turf, some sand, some hard core and even an indoor Astroturf — though there have been teething troubles with that one.

On the coaching staff are eight men, all working under the supervision of former international left-winger Piru Gainza, and these include former Spain right back Iñaki Saez. Their main responsibility is to coach boys from 13 upwards, and they are helped by a number of players from the senior professional squad who are working towards their own coaching certificate.

Lezama has its own full time doctor, and the centre was once linked, too, with a small college.

The club found that parents were reluctant to let their boys spend so much time with Bilbao when it was obvious that despite all the care and tuition, only a fraction of the numbers would make the grade. So the club organised their college to teach apprenticeship and trades. Against all expectations, it wasn't a success.

Between 16 and 18, boys who had left school at 14 didn't want to know about such boring routines. Still, that hasn't deterred the club from expanding their plans. Some 40,000 schoolboy footballers are under the microscope throughout Vizcaya and though it will take years for all this work and planning to pay off, in five, six or seven seasons we could see the first fruits of the Lezama project.

It's all a far cry to the Athletic Bilbao who emerged tattered and scarred from the effects of the civil war in 1939.

In *World Soccer* last month we saw how the English influence was soon eroded and how Bilbao won the league four times and the Cup 14 times — once in the Vizcaya arrangement — before trouble broke out in the autumn of 1936. Since then the reputation of the Lions has been maintained mainly through their exploits in the Cup. They have won that trophy nine times since, been finalists six times, but triumphed only twice in the league and have been four times runners-up.

One of those runners-up occasions was 1941, after Bilbao had taken on a young forward named Rafael Iriondo, later to become coach both at San Mames and along the coast at San Sebastian, and the following year they recorded one of their highest league wins — 10-0 against Celta de Vigo. In the Cup they needed a play-off to beat Real Madrid in the quarter finals, and then figured in one of the most dramatic of finals, in Chamartin against Barcelona.

Drawing 1-1 at half time, they were then 3-1 down before Zarra and Elices scored inside a minute to push into extra time a match Bilbao eventually lost 4-3.

No matter, a year later Bilbao were completing the league and Cup double. In the league they finished three points clear of Sevilla and, after beating Real Madrid 1-0 in the Cup Final, some 500,000 (!) people turned out in the city to welcome the players home. Again the Cup Final had gone into extra time, though this time the stage was Atletico Madrid's old home, the Estadio Metropolitano.

This time, with no goals scored, Zarra threw himself at a centre. Both man and ball finished up in the net, but it was enough — for the third time in their history Bilbao had completed the double.

From that high point they could go only down. In 1944 they finished 10th in the league — and narrowly missed having to play-off for the right to stay up — but retained the Cup, beating Valencia 2-0 (Zarra and Adrian Escudero). Then, in 1945, while the rest of Europe was about to celebrate the ending of war, Bilbao were celebrating their Cup hat-trick . . .

Again Valencia were the opposition, in Las Corts (Barcelona), and this time it was Valencia who went ahead through Mundo. Zarra equalised, Iriondo put Bilbao ahead, then Mundo squared it. At 2-2, and with 10 minutes to go, Zarra was sent off after a scuffle in the Valencia penalty box. It looked all over for Bilbao. Yet, four minutes later, Iriondo grabbed the winner!

Three successes in a row, then nothing until 1950 — Zarra's great year. In the meantime there had been some near-misses. In 1947 they reached the last match of the season one point ahead of Atletico Madrid and Valencia. Bilbao had to go to Vigo, who were fighting relegation. Valencia had an easy home game against Gijon, and Atletico Madrid were home to neighbours Real.

It was the grand climax to end them all, and goal average might prove vital. Atletico Madrid, twice ahead, lost 3-2 to Real: Valencia hammered Gijon 6-0; and Bilbao . . . drew 3-3 in Vigo. End result: Valencia took the title from Bilbao on goal average!

And so, on to the 1950 Cup Final. Telmo Zarra, the tall Bilbao centre forward would earn his place in Spain's international history when, a month or two later, he headed the only goal against England in the World Cup. Now he wrote himself into domestic history against Valladolid. After 90 minutes the score was 1-1 — and Zarra had scored for Bilbao. Into extra time and the outsiders, Valladolid, who in the past four years had come through from the third to the first division, threatened to crown all that glory with the Cup, when Zarra struck! Not once, or twice but *three* times, and Bilbao had regained "their" cup, thanks to the four-goal centre forward.

Player	Born	Joined	Int	Previous
Goal:				
Jose Angel IRIBAR Cortajarena	1-3-43	1962	49	Basconia
Juan Antonio ZALDUA Olazar	14-10-52	1969	—	Guernica
Defence:				
Jose Maria LASA Iberguren	3-3-48	1972	—	Granada
Agustin GUISASOLA Zabala	22-7-53	1970	—	Eibar
Jose Ramon ALESANCO Ventosa	19-6-56	1972	—	Llodio
Francisco Javier ESCALZA Elisburtal	10-12-51	1971	—	Villosa
Daniel ASTRAIN Egozcue	29-3-48	1969	—	Oberena
Antonio GOICOECHEA Olascoaga	23-8-56	1972	—	Arbuyo
Jose Ignacio ONAEDERRA Beyon	17-2-52	1975	—	Barcaldo
Midfield:				
Angel Maria VILLAR Llona	21-1-50	1968	11	Guecho
Javier IRURET Agoyena Arriano	1-4-48	1975	5	At. Madrid
Ignacio CHURRUCA Siatjiga	28-1-49	1976	14	Gijon
Ignacio GARAY Mogaguren	31-1-53	1966	—	—
Jose Angel ROJO Arrotia (II)	19-3-48	1969	1	Indauchu
Forwards:				
Daniel Ruiz-Bazan Justa (DANI)	28-6-51	1969	—	Sodupe
CARLOS Ruiz Herrero	7-6-48	1969	—	Guecho
Jose Francisco ROJO Arrotia (I)	28-1-47	1964	15	Firestone
Jose Maria BENGOECHEA Larrinaga	5-1-56	1970	—	—
Jose Maria AMORRORTU Prieto	22-7-53	1973	—	Guecho
Manuel SARABIA Lopez	9-1-57	1972	—	1972

Notes: Goicoechea, Guisasola, Lasa, Rojo I, Rojo II, Dani and Villar are all under-23 internationals. Irureta is a B international. Rojo I is a military international, and he and Goicoechea both youth internationals. Churruca, Lasa and Dani are all amateur internationals.

Historical note: Under laws passed at the end of the civil war Bilbao were forced to convert their name into the Spanish form, Atletico. However, the fans still referred to the club as 'Athletic' and the old name was officially re-adopted in July 1972.

Back in 1953 in the Cup Final, Bilbao went down 2-1 to a Barcelona team who, though not remembered now outside Spain, then boasted one of the finest club sides of the post-war era. Their greatest star was the former Hungarian and Czechoslovak international, Ladislav Kubala. And it was under Kubala's father-in-law Ferdinand Daucik that Bilbao, in 1955, won the Cup again, beating Helenio Herrera's Sevilla 1-0.

Zarra had retired now, so had inside forward Jose Luis Panizo — now a director. There were new stars. In goal was Carmelo Cedrun, a man who would win 15 caps for Spain, while the half-back line was arguably the best in the league. At right half was Mauricio Ugurtemendia — better known as Mauri, the 'Mighty Midget' — at centre half the redoubtable Jesus Garay, later sold to Barcelona for a then record £60,000, and at left half Mauri's partner in so many matches at both club and international level, Jose Maria Maguregui.

Maguregui was the harder of the two, Mauri the more inventive, and it was with these new talents to support the veteran skills of Gainza that in 1956, Bilbao won the Cup and league double yet again. What made their triumph the more glorious was that their rivals had started looking abroad for their new stars, but Bilbao finished a point clear of Barcelona and beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 in the Cup by sticking to their home grown policy.

It was a policy which then took them into the quarter finals of the Champions' Cup, and involved them in two memorable ties. The first was against the great Hungarians of Honved. Normally, Puskas & Co might have been too much even for the brave hearts of Bilbao, but the Hungarians came to Spain knowing that their homeland was bursting into the turmoil of revolution.

Bilbao won the first leg 3-2. But where to play the return? The Hungarian players and officials didn't yet know whether they wanted (or it was safe) to go home. They looked for a neutral ground on which to play the return while the Russians were moving into the streets of Budapest. Eventually, the Belgian FA agreed to let the match go ahead in the Heysel stadium. It was the last competitive match Puskas, Sandor Kocsis, and Zolton Czibor would play with the club they had made world-famous.

At half-time Bilbao, against the run of play, were 2-1 ahead. Then, tragedy for Honved. A few minutes after the start of the second half, Czibor had to limp off. Of course, there were no substitutes. In the 56th minute, Gainza went on a spectacular slalom through the defence. Farago dived bravely at his feet to save . . . and suffered a fractured collar bone. Czibor came back on in goal, but Gainza soon made it 3-1.

It seemed all over. But as Bilbao relaxed, so Honved threw caution to the four winds and made what proved their very last gamble. Farago bravely came back into goal, Czibor hobbled up the wing. Kocsis headed one goal, Puskas another. Carmelo made a string of great saves, and Bilbao had squeaked through . . .

Honved, as we knew them, had gone into history.

In the next round Bilbao were beaten by Manchester United, the Busby Babes who, like Honved, were living on borrowed time. Bilbao won 5-3 at home, then lost 3-0 at Old Trafford where even Garat couldn't cope with an inspired Tommy Taylor.

A year later Taylor and seven of his team-mates were dead.

But 1958 was a year of glory for Bilbao. Though they finished sixth in the league, they turned all the pundits inside out by winning the Cup. And what made that victory so outstanding — in Gainza's last match — was that to take 'their' trophy they beat by 1-0 Real Madrid, three times European club champions, in Madrid's very own Estadio Bernabeu.

Madrid were by now sick of the sight of Bilbao. In the league the Basques had beaten them 6-0 (!) in San Mames. However, when Madrid took revenge they did it in style. In the Cup semi-finals in 1959 Bilbao beat Madrid 3-0 in the first leg in San Mames. But in the return they were slaughtered. Madrid won 8-1; many of their fans say their performance that night was superior even to the exhibition against Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 European Cup Final.

And, for several years, Bilbao didn't even have any near-misses to excite the fans. The club did well enough in the league without setting anyone on fire, but seemed to have lost their touch in the Cup.

The slump lasted through until 1966, when Bilbao — with Gainza now coach — reached the Cup Final, only to lose surprisingly to Zaragoza, and they suffered the same fate the next year. This time they lost 2-1 to Valencia, after conceding a goal either side of half-time. The fans became impatient. Many experts wondered if, in these modern times, Bilbao's local policy was ever likely to bear fruit, whether it wasn't outmoded?

Bilbao tried their luck in Europe, in the Fairs Cup, but met with no more fortune. Gainza was sacked in midseason, being replaced by the man who once played alongside him, Iriondo and, at last, the spotlight swung back to San Mames.

All right, there was nothing to shout about in the manner of their 1-0 Cup Final win over unfashionable Elche in 1969. What was important was the fact that after 11 years Bilbao were back among the winners.

Again, of course, the playing staff had changed. Inaki Saez was a fast right back who often doubled as outside right; Fidel Uriarte was an inside right who could make goals, and take them too; at outside left — in the tradition of Gorostiza and Gainza — was a moody extrovert in Jose Francisco Rojo. But above all Bilbao had found a goalkeeper greater even than Carmelo.

His name was — and remains, of course — Jose Angel Iribar Cortajarena. Iribar was born 'up the road' from Bilbao in Zaratz, on March 1, 1943. Bilbao picked him up from Basconia and he made his league debut, as a substitute for Carmelo, at 20. A year later, in March 1964, he made his Spain debut in the 5-1 European Championship win over the Republic of Ireland in Seville, and since that 48 more caps have followed — taking him past Zamora's old record total of 46.

Iribar is now the captain of Bilbao — and more. Despite injuries and illness which have, in the past two years, cost him his place in the national team, he remains *the* hero for Bilbao fans and his espousal of the independent Basque cause hasn't harmed his image either!

Iribar was club captain when Bilbao won the Cup yet again in 1973, beating Castellon 2-0. By now Pavic was the coach — the last foreigner in charge, up to now. But, as I was told: "Bringing in foreign players hinders the development of Spanish players, particularly forwards. But we can learn from foreign managers. Just because we are happy now with Koldo Aguirre doesn't mean we shan't, at some stage, take on another coach from outside — maybe from England again."

That 1973 Cup Final was the last time Bilbao won anything — though they came close enough in different events last season. They finished third in the league, lost surprisingly on penalties in the Cup Final to Betis, and were narrowly beaten also in the UEFA Cup Final. In this, their first European club final, they went down on away goals to Juventus, losing 1-0 away then winning 2-1 at home.

The squad is a young one with a lot of promise. Iribar is still there in goal, while Agustin Guisasola and Jose Ramon Alesanco (sometimes spelt the Basque way, Alexanco) are a sound pair in the centre of defence. Alesanco, only 21, was called into Spain's squad against Hungary in the spring after only 11 senior matches. He plays sweeper or in midfield, making up with sound reading of a game what he lacks in pace.

In midfield Bilbao are blessed with three consistent men in Javier Irureta, the former Atletico Madrid schemer, Angel Villar, a mobile, hard-working self-sacrificing international, and Ignacio Churruca, who loves to move forward for a crack at goal. Churruca cost a record fee of well over £200,000 from Gijon a year ago and has quickly repaid the outlay.

Up front the two stars remain the slight centre-forward Carlos Ruiz Herrero — known as Carlos, top scorer in Spain two years ago — and Jose Francisco Rojo. The man known as Rojo I has played 15 times for Spain and remains the Bilbao player with the most flair.

He's moody, on the field and off. If he is playing well he's on top of the world, but any slight injury which stops him training depresses him beyond measure.

Still, he could soon have another potent partner up front if negotiations for the £190,000 transfer of Santander centre forward Aitor Aguirre go through.

Bilbao have it all mapped out for the future, and they're also a calm club. The recent transition in the presidency from the retiring Eguidazu to new man Jesus Dunabeitia was accomplished calmly and quietly. Eguidazu's reign has seen the foundations laid, now Dunabeitia must shoulder the responsibility of making sure the team produce the results.

Because of their self-reliance, their independence, and their rational and professional approach, few clubs deserve to succeed more than Athletic de Bilbao.

Brian Glanville...

THOSE of you who have been waiting breathlessly to know what the Great Manipulator had to say to me when he came over here from Italy in early June will be mortified I am sure to hear that he never came. He did, however, send a message to say that he still wanted to see me.

Meanwhile, now that September is with us, Keith Botsford, my esteemed colleague in investigation, laid low, alas, by a motor accident in France, and I await news from UEFA. These gentlemen are due to meet this month again – in Switzerland, I believe – and will certainly, after all this endless tempporising, have to say something about our last revelations that Solti did work officially for Juventus; which means that Juventus lied.

Will they evade, bury and avoid again? Will our own deeply revered Sir Harold Thompson plead like an angel, trumpet tongued, against the deep damnation of this . . . putting off? Will he, and they, see to it, pursuing the idiom of MACBETH, that they blow the horrid deed in every eye? Botsford and I, who are nothing if not childishly optimistic, continue to live in hope . . . rather than incertainty.

Virdis joins Juventus– after delay!

PIETRO PAOLO VIRDIS scored six goals in 42 Serie A games in 1974-75 and 1975-76. His club, Cagliari of Sardinia, were then relegated, and last season he was Serie B's second top scorer with 18 goals.

That is the restricted pedigree of the man at the centre of a major transfer furore when Cagliari accepted a £1,000,200 offer from champions Juventus for their centre forward.

The trouble wasn't over the ridiculous fact that Juve were prepared to spend very nearly a world record fee on an unproven 20-year-old, but the fact that the audacious Virdis turned round and told Juventus to get lost!

Italian transfers are still conducted under cattle-market rituals in which the player cannot object if the terms he will receive are an improvement on those he is already receiving, and if the move involves staying in the same division, or stepping up.

In the Virdis case the player had no grounds for complaint. Despite his goals last season Cagliari had failed, in a sudden-death play-off league, to win promotion back to Serie A. Juventus' bid meant for Virdis a step-up into the top class and a massive pay rise.

Yet still he said No. He said No when his family tried to persuade him; he said No in two sets of talks with Juventus president/ Giampiero Boniperti; he said No during a meeting with Luigi Riva, the old Cagliari star who had stayed in Sardinia and, who, deep down, wanted Virdis to do the same.

Opposition

But, as Riva recognised, Virdis could have found himself banned from soccer for life if he had maintained his opposition against the might of Juventus.

He did change his mind eventually — after a second meeting with Riva, and after a pointed letter from Juventus inviting him to the first pre-season training session.

What was behind it all? Virdis refused to say.

Secret

"That is my secret," he said. "It was not for me to talk about with the Juventus club or anyone. I just hope that the Juventus players will not hold anything against me because of this. I have never had anything but the highest regard for them, and I hope to work hard and do well playing with them."

News from ITALY by Keir Radnedge

ITALIAN FIXTURES 1977-78

(Dates in brackets indicate fixture reversal)

Sept. 11 — Atalanta-Perugia. Fiorentina-Milan. Genoa-Lazio. Inter-Bologna. Juventus-Foggia. Pescara-Napoli. Roma-Torino. Verona-Vicenza. (January 29).

Sept. 18 — Bologna-Atalanta. Foggia-Fiorentina. Lazio-Verona. Vicenza-Inter. Milan-Genoa. Napoli-Juventus. Perugia-Roma. Torino-Pescara. (Feb. 5).

Sept. 25 — Atalanta-Lazio. Fiorentina-Verona. Genoa-Perugia. Inter-Napoli. Juventus-Milan. Vicenza-Torino. Pescara-Bologna. Roma-Foggia. (Feb. 12).

October 2 — Foggia-Bologna. Lazio-Juventus. Milan-Vicenza. Napoli-Genoa. Perugia-Fiorentina. Pescara-Roma. Torino-Inter. Verona-Atalanta. (Feb. 19).

October 23 — Atalanta-Napoli. Bologna-Perugia. Foggia-Torino. Genoa-Verona. Inter-Lazio. Juventus-Fiorentina. Vicenza-Pescara. Roma-Milan. (Feb. 26).

October 30 — Atalanta-Vicenza. Fiorentina-Inter. Lazio-Pescara. Milan-Foggia. Napoli-Roma. Perugia-Juventus. Torino-Genoa. Verona-Bologna. (March 5).

November 6 — Bologna-Torino. Genoa-Foggia. Inter-Milan. Juventus-Atalanta. Vicenza-Lazio. Napoli-Perugia. Pescara-Verona. Roma-Fiorentina. (March 12).

November 20 — Atalanta-Genoa. Fiorentina-Vicenza. Foggia-Pescara. Milan-Bologna. Perugia-Inter. Roma-Lazio. Torino-Napoli. Verona-Juventus. (March 19)

November 27 — Bologna-Fiorentina. Inter-Atalanta. Juventus-Genoa. Lazio-Foggia. Vicenza-Roma. Napoli-Verona. Perugua-Torino. Pescara-Milan. (March 26).

December 11 — Atalanta-Fiorentina. Bologna-Roma. Foggia-Vicenza. Genoa-Pescara. Lazio-Napoli. Milan-Perugia. Torino-Juventus. Verona-Inter. (April 2).

December 18 — Fiorentina-Lazio. Inter-Juventus. Vicenza-Bologna. Napoli-Foggia. Perugia-Verona. Pescara-Atalanta. Roma-Genoa. Torino-Milan. (April 9).

December 31 — Atalanta-Milan. Fiorentina-Napoli. Foggia-Perugia. Genoa-Vicenza. Inter-Pescara. Juventus-Bologna. Lazio-Torino. Verona-Roma. (April 16).

January 8 — Bologna-Genoa. Foggia-Atalanta. Vicenza-Napoli. Milan-Verona. Perugia-Lazio. Pescara-Juventus. Roma-Inter. Torino-Fiorentina. (April 23).

January 15 — Atalanta-Torino. Fiorentina-Pescara. Inter-Genoa. Juventus-Roma. Lazio-Milan. Napoli-Bologna. Perugia-Vicenza. Verona-Foggia. (April 30).

January 22 — Bologna-Lazio. Foggia-Inter. Genoa-Fiorentina. Vicenza-Juventus. Milan-Napoli. Pescara-Perugia. Roma-Atalanta. Torino-Verona. (May 7).

ITALIAN CUP — Starts August 21 (full details not available at time of writing).

INTERNATIONALS — Oct. 8, West Germany v Italy. Oct. 15, Italy v Finland (World Cup). Nov. 16, England v Italy (World Cup). Dec. 3, Italy v Luxembourg (World Cup).

NOTE — These fixtures are as announced in July. If English readers visiting Italy wish to attend games it might be as well to check the previous weeks through foreign football results columns in 'The Times' or 'The Guardian' that the programme is running as anticipated.

Italy's Tardelli with manager Bearzot.

I gather that Virdis's love for Sardinia and Cagliari was based not just on football but on a certain young lady there. It's hard to believe that he will settle down to Turin unless she is 'transferred' with him.

Not that Virdis is a young player I had ever rated. Certainly it's hard to see him deputising for, and ultimately replacing, Roberto Boninsegna.

Juventus have never had much luck in their approaches to Cagliari. Several years ago they did their utmost to persuade the Sardinian club to sell Riva, but always the player was able to persuade the club to say No. A different case to Virdis, where the clubs had agreed terms, although Riva himself said: "I don't understand how Cagliari can hope to get back into *Serie A* unless we hold on to our best players."

So why did Riva later try to persuade Virdis to accept his fate and join Juventus? — "The clubs had settled it all, and Virdis could have destroyed his career by refusing to move. I couldn't stand by and let him do that under any terms."

Riva himself, who retired officially in mid-season, but who last played 18 months ago before injuries caught up with him, was the subject of a transfer bid himself — from Verona's former Italy manager, Ferruccio Valcareggi.

But there was never any chance the great Gigi would change his mind — or that doctors would have passed him fit for a return to *Serie A* at 32 and after a career of more than 300 league games and 160 goals for Cagliari.

The other big failure of the summer transfer dealings was Torino's attempt to sign *Azzurri* midfielder Giancarlo Antognoni. When it seemed Fiorentina might be willing to listen to an offer, all hell was let loose, and that included a home-made bomb being thrown at the home of club president Ugolino Ugolini.

Antognoni stays in Florence!

The other big name talked of between the major clubs was the Genoa centre forward Roberto Pruzzo. But in fact the only threat to his staying with Genoa was when his car overturned as he was going on holiday. Pruzzo was shocked but unhurt.

In fact there were few major transfers. Prohibitive prices and inflation seem finally to have put a brake on the market, and most of the buying and selling was among young players out of the second division.

Internazionale sold striker Giacomo Libera to promoted Atalanta and signed two promising youngsters in 21-year-old Sandro Altobelli from Brescia and midfielder Sandro Scanziani, 24, from Como. Milan have picked up winger Ugo Tosetto from Monza.

The biggest clear-out has been at Napoli, who sold striker Walter Speggiorin to Perugia, midfielder Andrea Orlandini and goalkeeper Pietro Carmignani to Fiorentina, and another midfielder, Salvatore Esposito, to Sampdoria.

In return they have gained goalkeeper Massimo Mattolini from Fiorentina, left back Pellegrino Valente from Samp, and forwards Livio Pin from Perugia and Maurizio Restelli from Fiorentina.

In the European Cups it looks easy for champions Juventus, paired with Omonia Nicosia. Milan might well beat Betis in the Cup-winners' Cup, but in the UEFA Cup Fiorentina (against Schalke) and Inter (Dynamo Tbilisi) will have many more problems than Lazio (Boavista) and Torino (Apoel Nicosia).

Finally, let's record the fact that Don Revie's most upsetting move as far as Italy's World Cup progress is concerned, was to resign.

Azzurri coach Enzo Bearzot felt he knew Revie's ideas and tactics better than the ex-England manager himself. Now the Italians fear they will face an unpleasant death-or-glory England performance at Wembley in the match which will virtually settle the group.

'Golden' Saudi Arabia

by Brian Marshall

"SOCCER is a wonderful life and full of golden opportunities," claims Pat Wright, the former Birmingham City, Derby County and Shrewsbury Town defender, who is now in Saudi Arabia following a short spell with his family in their new home at Great Barr, near Birmingham.

The former Portsmouth chief coach, who is part of the Jimmy Hill organisation in Saudi Arabia, feels it is good experience but obviously has his sights on a career in English soccer.

Talking to him on one of his brief visits back to England which are restricted because of the income tax laws, he told me: "Looking back to my schooldays in the Midlands the thought of working in such an exciting place as Saudi Arabia would have been just a wild dream — a place on the world map.

"But I've spent nearly a year of a two year contract out there and enjoyed every minute.

"I cannot speak for Bill McGarry, who is hoping to return to England in the near future, but I have found it a very rewarding experience.

"I'm head coach for the Eastern Province with special responsibility to channel any promising young player into the national squad under the control of Bill McGarry.

"Already the scheme is working very well. There is a lot of talent out there and it is our job to discover the best possible team in time for the Gulf Games in 1978.

"We are also organising the game at grass roots because this is the only way to get a base for the game.

"Everyone is enthusiastic and this is making our job a little easier than expected.

"Obviously there is a language problem but I've picked up about 80 words in connection with coaching of the game and this helps a great deal when dealing with the players.

"I have found very keen, very gentle and well mannered people and it has been a pleasure working with them over this period.

"For me it has been a marvellous opportunity. I look upon it as further experience because you never stop learning in this game.

"I feel it is also a pleasure to be working with Jimmy Hill. He is an influencial man and I feel that working under his control is not a bad recommendation when the time comes to look for another opening in the game."

Speaking to Wright it is obvious that there are problems in such a scheme and that it is only the dedicated professional who can overcome these situations as they arise.

Jimmy Hill.

As Don Revie will discover when he takes up his new appointment in September it calls for a great deal of organisation and there is a tremendous difference between dealing with professionals in England and the raw beginner in a foreign country.

This is why the appointment of Don Revie may not have been the best of moves by his new employers. Obviously they have gone for a figure head and in their opinion bought the best in the business.

Unfortunately their kind of situation is unique and calls for a tremendous amount of hard work at grass roots level.

It is a long time, if ever, that Don Revie has been involved in this type of soccer but for £350,000 for four years he is obviously going to give it all his time and effort.

Wright, meanwhile, is already planning his future for his eventual return to England. The purchase of a house in Great Barr was the first move because it is close to the motorway and this will put him in reach of many Football League clubs.

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GORSKI'S GREEK DOUBLE

by Arthur Rotmil

OLD football managers never die — they just go to Greece! This may well be a new paraphrase borrowed from the military vocabulary, but currently valid if one surveys the scene and recent movements of old-timers, those once famous soccer chiefs who have made their way to the land of the Hellenes.

That most of them have been found wanting and couldn't find a job because they failed in their latest assignment doesn't seem to worry the Greeks, or may be they haven't a word for it!

When Vic Buckingham faded out of favour first at Ajax Amsterdam and then in Barcelona, he landed in Greece. When Billy Bingham lost his position with Everton, he too returned to Greece where he once managed the national team — just as unsuccessfully.

And when the Czech-born Dr. Frantisek Fadrhonc was relieved of his duties as national coach in Holland he went . . . yes, to Greece and so did more recently the disillusioned Kazimierz Gorski, formerly the national chief of Poland's brilliant side who finished third in the 1974 World Cup.

Gorski at least can now claim that he has just led Panathinaikos to the Greek championship title and Cup victory. It will be remembered, that Panathinaikos were the first Greek club to make an international impact when they reached the final of the European Champions Cup in 1971.

Within just five days at the end of last season the Athens club led by the wily Pole won both the Cup and League for the second "double" in their history. Since 1959, when the National League was founded, Panathinaikos have won the championship nine times and the cup six times.

It was a tremendous finish over the last ten games as the big four, Olympiakos, PAOK Salonika, AEK Athens and Panathinaikos fought for the crown. The surprise was, that in the closing stages Panathinaikos appeared beaten whilst trailing four points behind PAOK. But a fighting display in crucial games against close rivals helped them to draw level and eventually to overtake the leaders. In the decisive match at Salonika the Athenians held out for a 0-0 draw despite missing three key men. The rest of the programme presented no problems.

Panathinaikos did not lose a single local "derby" — three wins and three draws contributed greatly to winning the title. And in the Cup too, their victory over Olympiakos in the semi-final will go down in Greek history: Although two of their players were sent off, to their opponents one, Panathinaikos' nine men triumphed in extra time against the ten!

The Athens team can boast — together with Olympiakos — the most prolific forward line in the country. Their schemer is still the "ageless" Mimis Domasos (36), who prepares the bullets for the strikers Alvares (19 goals) and Antoniadis (18 goals). The champions also let in the fewest number of goals (20).

Triumph

The Greek experts are unanimous in their opinion that the "double" is a personal triumph for Gorski whose coaching, but above all psychological ability turned Panathinaikos once again into a team to be feared.

Panathinaikos' greatest rivals were local foes Olympiakos, where an old hand in Greek football, the Englishman Les Shannon, held the reigns. He was less successful than before — having won the Cup twice with PAOK and once at Iraklis — but nonetheless a runners' up place and reaching the cup semi-final cannot be entirely judged as failure.

PAOK lost the chance of the title practically before their own crowd when they could not beat the "Panas". A further disappointment brought the cup final which took place in Athens ten days later. In a hard and exciting game PAOK dominated for long spells, and twice hit the bar, but after three cautions one of the offenders, Gunaris, was sent off and eventually Panathinaikos ran out worthy winners. PAOK have lodged a protest against the referee's handling of the match, but instead of him, the players and officials of the club were punished!

Third place in the League race went to AEK Athens, who might have done better if, ironically enough, they hadn't played so brilliantly in the UEFA-Cup in which AEK reached the semi-finals, having on their way put out Queen's Park Rangers — after losing in London by 3-0!

No fewer than five clubs have had their grounds closed for three games because of crowd trouble. The average attendance at a League game reached 10,000 — the total of 3,030,000 fans visited the 304 matches. The biggest gates were recorded by Olympiakos (average 26,215); Panathinaikos (21,700); PAOK (21,650); AEK (16,900); Aris Salonika (11,300) and Iraklis (11,200). The total of 806 goals produced an average of 2.64 goals per match. Leading scorers: Intzoglou (Ethnikos) 22; Papadopoulos (Iraklion) 21; Alvares (Panathinaikos) 19; Antoniadis (Panathinaikos) and Mavros (AEK) both on 18.

Billy Bingham (right) with Greek national team during his reign as manager.

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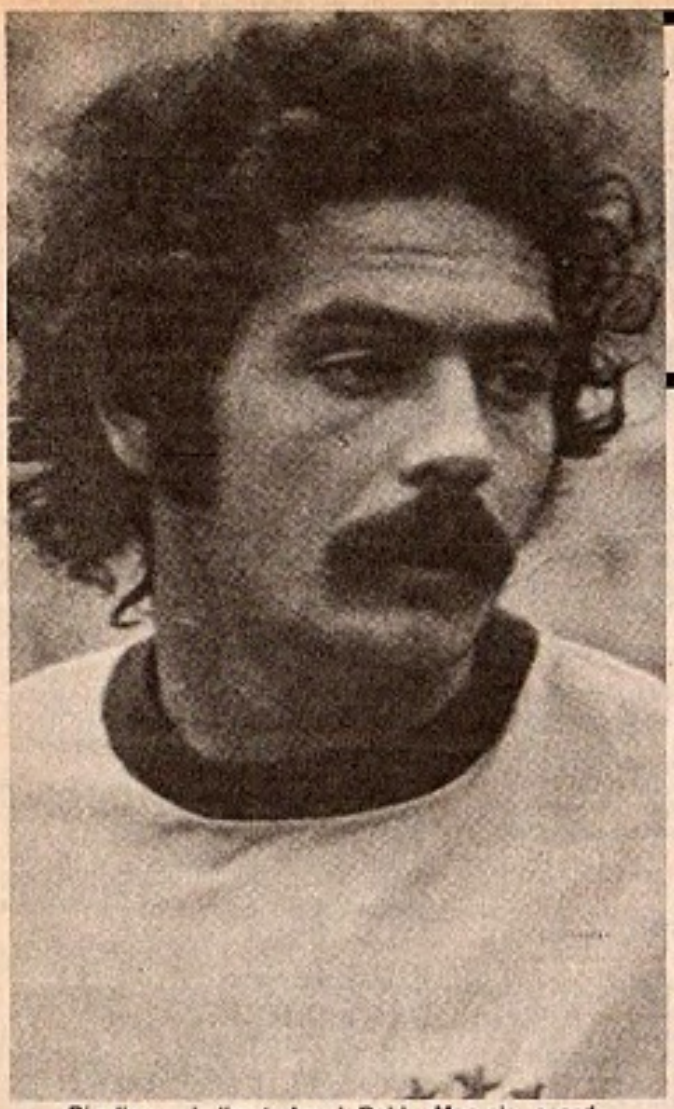


Rivelino — in line to break Bobby Moore's record.

THE TROUBLE with statistics is that you can prove anything with them — and that's particularly true of Roberto Rivelino's 107 appearances for Brazil.

When he ran out for that 107th match in the World Cup South American zone match against Bolivia, Rivelino, the stocky moustachioed 31-year-old from Fluminense of Rio, was establishing his claim to become very soon the doyen of them all.

Only Bobby Moore (108) has played more times for his country, and though Hector Chumpitaz (Peru — 102) and Bjorn Nordqvist (Sweden — 101) are still going, only Brazil's programme would seem to offer the scope for Rivelino to go well clear.

A year ago Franz Beckenbauer, it seemed, would make the record his own. He played his 100th international for West Germany in the European championship final against Czechoslovakia and, the way he played as sweeper, seemed good for another three years at least.

The shock move to New York Cosmos ended all that. It will be a major surprise if Kaiser Franz adds now to his 103 appearances.

So it's all down to Rivelino — the third Brazilian to reach three figures. That would provide him with another record, he already claims the fastest goal of all time — scored after three seconds of a game three years ago, when he shot in from almost halfway as the opposing goalkeeper was on his knees saying his usual pre-match prayer!

But forgive me if I'm a little cynical about those 107 matches. I'm not doubting that Rivelino has played 107 times for a Brazil team. But remember the Jairzinho affair of a couple of years back, when he claimed he had reached 99 and a big jubilee match was laid on before someone checked the addition and exploded the scheme! No-one has seriously doubted the Rivelino figures — but there is no doubt that he has not played what, in Europe, are regarded as full internationals for the purposes of such records.

Rivelino himself admitted in a newspaper interview a few weeks back that in fact he had probably played only 85 'full' matches. The remainder are made up by appearances for a Brazil team in representative internal matches against state selections and club sides in trial games.

"That, too, explains how Brazil manage to squeeze Gilmar and Santos into the top 12. But, before Brazilian admirers reach for their pens to shower the *World Soccer* offices in protest, let me make it clear that I don't begrudge Rivelino his record — for he surely will achieve it. I just wish he could have reached it the same way Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton achieved theirs — with performances in full internationals.

The first man to the magic 100 was England captain Billy Wright, back in 1959, against Scotland in the Home Internationals, closely followed within a year or two by the unsung Norwegian, Thorbjorn Svensson — another central defender — and then Hungary's Jozsef Bozsik.

Very soon the way was opened for more men to make the grade. The introduction of the European Championship in 1958-60 had added the potential for many more matches in the European calendar, and this increase in competitive soccer led to a corresponding increase in the number of friendly, preparatory, games.

That being so, it remains surprising that Europe's share of the top 12 is seven, when South American international soccer has not been blessed with the introduction of such a major new competition inside the past 20 years.

Of course the South American championship itself goes back much further. But it has been an erratic competition, and only about once every three or four years have Brazil, Argentina or Uruguay pushed out the boat for a lengthy tour of Europe.

Whereas the 100-plus Europeans all made the mark the hard way, the South Americans all include trial games — and that goes, too, for Chile's Leonel Sanchez and Peru's Chumpitaz.

International career

Chumpitaz, who is now returning home after several years playing in Mexico, will, like Nordqvist — who ran up his 100th international recently against Denmark — be in Argentina next year. But if Rivelino stands by intentions of a year or two back, when he said he intended to play on a couple of years beyond the next World Cup, they will be among the also-rans.

So, where did Rivelino's international career take off?

Nine years ago, in fact, during Brazil's disappointing 1968 tour of Europe. Rivelino had joined Corinthians in his home town of Sao Paulo, in 1964 — 18 years after being born on January 1, 1946. He was an inside left who had attracted the attention of scouts from Corinthians and Palmeiras because of his ability in indoor six-a-side soccer.

It was in that environment that he had perfected early on his brilliant ball control, his dribbling skill, and the mastery in shooting which means that he is hardly ever to be found ballooning the ball over the top of goal.

He stayed with Corinthians for 11 years — not always peacefully. Several times there was trouble over money, but in the end they were paying him a staggering £80 a day. And that was a great deal for a club who, throughout his stay, never won anything. First because of the concurrence of Santos and Pele, then because of the rise of Palmeiras with Ademir da Guia.

Rivelino's progress was not easy. As a teenager his potential was greater than his physique. He needed remarkable perseverance to go through with a body-building course and special diet to build up his stamina, but how it paid off!

Having made his Brazil debut in 1968 Rivelino hung around on the fringes of the squad, but would never have got his big chance had it not been for the political in-fighting which saw Mario Zagalo appointed manager a few months before the 1970 World Cup Finals.

Rivelino had always been an inside left with Corinthians and, of course, he couldn't wear the No 10 shirt for Brazil! But Zagalo, remembering his own role as the left-winger who could drop back into midfield in the 1958 and 1962 sides, saw just this possibility for Rivelino.

D RECORD
IVELINO?

by Keir Radnedge

ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

Bobby Moore	England	108
ROBERTO RIVELINO	Brazil	107
Bobby Charlton	England	106
Billy Wright	England	105
Leonel Sanchez	Chile	104
Thorbjorn Svensson	Norway	104
FRANZ BECKENBAUER	West Germany	103
HECTOR CHUMPITAZ	Peru	102
BJORN NORDQVIST	Sweden	101
Josef Bozsik	Hungary	100
Gilmar dos Santos	Brazil	100
Djalma Santos	Brazil	100

Near misses: Pele (Brazil) played 93 internationals; Ferenc Puskas played 88 (84 for Hungary, 4 for Spain).

Other players: Giacinto Facchetti has played 90 times for Italy; Berti Vogts has played 82 for West Germany.

And how his hunch was borne out, as Brazil — with Rivelino doubling in midfield and on the left in attack —swept gloriously to victory in the Aztec Stadium in Mexico City. Rivelino, who had scored 17 goals in 34 internationals up to the Finals, hit three more goals on the way to beating Italy — his father's home country — in the grand climax.

He rifled home one of his typically fearsome free kicks against Czechoslovakia, and scored too against Peru in the quarter finals and Uruguay in the sèmi-finals. He was at the start of the move which saw Carlos Alberto smash Brazil's fourth past Italy in the final.

Overnight, almost, he had become a world star, and his new-found fame almost became too much for him. After midfield ace Gerson retired, Rivelino was expected to take over his mantle in the Brazilian team. But he remained too much of an individualist to mould a team around him, and the result was the comparative failure of fourth place in the 1974 World Cup Finals.

Rivelino had now reached 70 matches for Brazil and realised that if he were to make the most of what remained of his career, he would have to move. So, in the summer of 1975, he forced Corinthians to sell him for a fee reported at £650,000, to Fluminense.

Rediscovered

It was a move which made all the difference. Rivelino, with the help of his brother, bought a chain of petrol stations to assure his future and, on the pitch, rediscovered the flair which had been missing since Mexico. Fluminense won the Brazilian championship and the fans decided that now he was playing better than ever before.

Not that it's easy, even now. Rivelino has had his problems adapting to the meteoric rise of the young Zico. At one stage Zico is said to have told former Brazil manager, Oswaldo Brandao: "If you want to play Rivelino, then leave me out."

But new manager Claudio Coutinho has proved less receptive to individuals' foibles than his predecessor, and proof that he is forging a team worthy to challenge for the World Cup came with the two play-off victories in Cali, Colombia — 1-0 against Peru, 8-0 against Bolivia.

The triumph against Bolivia was joint — Rivelino demonstrated that he could be the organiser, while Zico stayed further forward than before and hit four of the goals. That could prove such a devastating partnership next summer!

As we've seen, that match was Rivelino's 107th. His 100th was the Rio de Janeiro friendly against West Germany — a fairytale match for Rivelino, since it was his late, late equaliser which saved the Brazilians' unbeaten Maracana record which has stood since 1957.

In those 100 internationals Rivelino scored 38 goals, many from the free kicks which are his speciality. Rivelino's ability with the dead ball loses nothing in comparison with the old master, Didi.

Rivelino has made sacrifices aplenty for his fame. He is constantly troubled by sciatica, and frequently sleeps on the floor at night before a big game so that his back gains the support and rest necessary. Another of his regrets is that his worldwide travels have separated him so often from his family.

He has been travelling the world for nine years since he first came to Europe in 1968 with Corinthians to play in a tournament in Turin.

"My children hardly know me," he said a little while ago. "But, after all, a footballer's life is only a comparatively short one, even if it is well paid."

Rivelino is a father of three — and that third child was born three years ago, while he was in Europe for the World Cup . . .

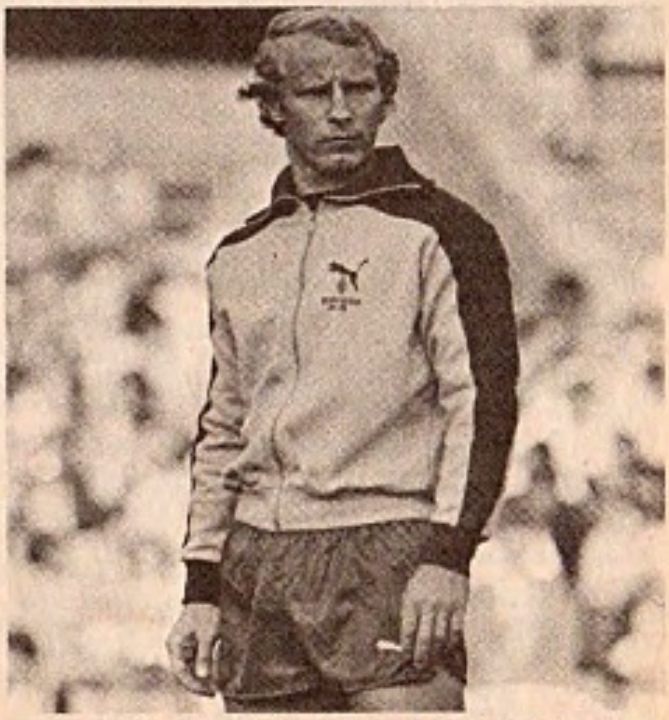
Once, Brazilian fans said: "We'll never find anyone to fill the No 10 shirt like Pele."

Yet in Rivelino they surely have the next best thing. And, if we haven't given Pele much mention up to now, it's because *O Rey* never reached 100 caps. His international career ended when he had totted up 93.

Rivelino has had his trouble with referees over the years, for he's never been the coolest of men, and had a fiery meeting with Billy Bremner in the 1974 World Cup. But deep down he's fully aware of his responsibilities.

"My role with Brazil is a heavy burden to carry," he said before the World Cup trip to Colombia. "If everything goes well, then the credit for winning is shared out among all sorts of different people. But if anything should go wrong *then it will all be blamed on me.*"

At least this time next year, whatever may happen to Brazil's attempt to win the World Cup for the fourth time, Roberto Rivelino should have the consolation of an appearance record which will stand for years to come.



Berti Vogts — well on the way to his century.

International Microscope

Turkey look to Western Europe

by ERIC BATTY

WHEN Turkey drew 1-1 away to East Germany in a 1978 World Cup qualifying match in Leipzig it looked as if the Turks were in with a real chance of qualification. Their only other game at that time had been a 4-0 win at home to Malta and with the other country in their group, Austria, going through a lean spell, Turkey's chances looked bright.

The 0-1 defeat suffered in Vienna at the Prater Park at the end of last season was obviously a blow, putting the Turks back to square one. But if things work out right, and they do themselves justice when they meet East Germany and Austria at home — and get good wins — they could still go through.

East Germany's experienced team, with their recent record of two years without defeat, including the Olympic title, should be good enough to win in Vienna. Four points from Austria is what the DDR needs to qualify, and if they get all four, or even three, then the door is open again to Turkey.

They have qualified before of course, rather surprisingly for a somewhat backward and little country (in football terms), way back in 1954, but on that occasion they didn't last long in a group with ultimate winners West Germany, and of course the fabulous Hungarians of 1954.

Since then the Turks have appeared to make little progress with the big clubs like Fenerbahce, Galatasaray and Besiktas dominating competition at home, led by a string of foreign bosses. In spite of their dominance at home, all three clubs were regarded as a 'soft' draw for Western teams who came across them in the European Cup and Turkey has remained a soccer backwater.

Though the giant clubs play in Istanbul, it was not long ago that Ankara had parity with them, putting forward their championship contenders each year. Now, sadly, the game has withered in Ankara, the capital, and for some years has been without First Division football.

Situated at the cross roads of Europe, the gateway to the Far East by land, much of Turkey is mountainous, and outside the major cities largely, still a wilderness with the population scratching for a difficult living and having no time to think of sport at all, let alone football.

Only in Istanbul is there really the kind of money needed to develop the game but until now, they appear to have gone so far and then stopped.

They have had their stars, real favourites with the local fans, but they have seldom shown up well against the professional teams of Western Europe. Men like Kuckand Lefter was a legend in the fifties, a man who became the most capped Turkish player of all time and played in the legendary game when Turkey beat mighty Hungary in 1955-56, just before the great Puskas/Bozsik team broke up. That to date was probably the greatest day for the game in Turkey.

Because of their geographical position, in Asia Minor according to geographists, but in the sophisticated centres of Istanbul and Ankara certainly European in terms of culture and development, the Turks have often played their less developed neighbours in the near East.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Albania	2	1	0	1	3	4
Algeria	1	0	0	1	0	1
Austria	4	0	0	4	0	4
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	2
Bulgaria	11	2	4	5	15	23
Brazil	1	0	0	1	0	4
China	1	1	0	0	4	0
Czechoslovakia	7	1	2	4	5	18
Denmark	2	0	2	0	1	1
Egypt (UAR)	5	3	0	2	11	13
Eire	5	1	2	2	7	11
Estonia	1	1	0	0	4	1
Ethiopia	2	1	1	0	3	0
Finland	3	1	0	2	6	6
Germany, East	1	0	1	0	1	1
Germany, West	9	1	1	7	6	28
Greece	5	3	0	2	8	7
Holland	2	1	1	0	2	1
Hungary	4	1	0	3	6	9
Iran	5	2	3	0	11	2
Ireland (North)	2	0	0	2	1	7
Israel	4	3	0	1	7	7
Italy	6	0	2	4	0	9
Korea, North	2	2	0	0	8	0
Latvia	1	1	0	0	3	1
Luxembourg	2	1	0	1	3	2
Malta	1	1	0	0	4	0
Norway	3	2	0	1	3	5
Pakistan	3	3	0	0	11	4
Poland	11	2	2	7	9	30
Portugal	4	1	0	3	5	10
Rumania	14	3	4	7	13	28
Saudi Arabia	2	2	0	0	4	2
Scotland	1	1	0	0	4	2
Spain	7	1	3	3	4	12
Sweden	2	1	0	1	2	3
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	11	12
Syria	1	1	0	0	7	0
Tunisia	3	1	2	0	4	1
U.S.S.R.	9	2	0	7	6	17
Yugoslavia	7	1	2	4	11	18
Totals	166	53	36	77	215	306

No other European country has played teams like Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan as they have. In addition they have also played the North Africans like Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, as well as Ethiopia and China. But what the Turkish game needs desperately is more exposure to Western Europe.

One visit in the UEFA Cup followed by elimination in the First round is not enough, yet today the 'floodlit friendly' is of no interest to the fans who have grown accustomed to the big occasions, and thus the financial loss that would follow, rules out lengthy visits to Western Europe.

But in football, as in other things, there is no substitute for experience and the Turks must somehow build their bridge to Western Europe.

Not surprisingly, most of Turkey's games until now have been against Balkan countries with Rumania being the team met most often. In 14 games with them, Turkey has won only 3, drawn 4 and lost 7. In total, in games against the Rumanians, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece (with whom political squabbles have limited their meetings to only five), Turkey have won only 9 of the 37 encounters.

Clearly the first step is to get better results against their Balkan neighbours before they can hope to successfully take on the likes of West Germany who gave them a 5-0 hammering in Turkey, in 1975... and England, whom Turkey have never played.

Right now the superiority of the Istanbul clubs is being challenged by Trabzonspor, practically unknown three years ago. Now this club provides the backbone of the national team and includes amongst its stars Ali Kemal, a mini-Keegan type player who is extremely popular and the man most likely to step into the breach when the very talented Cemil, now over 30, finally gives way to the new generation in the national side.

Lefter to a lesser degree; Cemil more recently have carried the banner for Turkey, for it is to their youth that they must look for the breakthrough, and the new generation needs experience above all. Allied to enthusiasm and dedication, it can lift Turkey out of their rut. There is no other way.

News from
NORTH AMERICA
by Colin Jose

Fort Lauderdale Strikers and Minnesota Kicks clinch their titles

PORTLAND PLAY-OFF

WITH just one week to go in the regular season a much clearer pattern is beginning to emerge in the four divisions of the North American Soccer League. Two clubs, the Fort Lauderdale Strikers in the Eastern Division and the Minnesota Kicks in the Western Division have clinched their respective championships, while the Dallas Tornado are in a strong position and should emerge on top in the south. However, the Northern Division, regarded as the weakest division in the league, remains a toss up between three teams, Toronto, St. Louis and Rochester.

Three teams from each of the four leagues qualify for the play offs with the divisional champions getting a bye while the second and third place teams meet in a sudden death game. Whoever wins each of the divisional play offs then advances to the conference play offs with two leagues being in the Atlantic Conference and two in the Pacific Conference. The conference winners then play off in the "Soccer Bowl" which will be held this year on August 28 in the Civic Stadium in Portland, Oregon.

The success of Fort Lauderdale is the surprise of the season so far and a great tribute to the sagacity of coach Ron Newman and the play of Gordon Banks who has acted as assistant to Newman as well as turning in sound performances in goal week after week.

Playing in a division that contained two of the league's glamour teams, the New York Cosmos and the Tampa Bay Rowdies, the Strikers have played consistently all season long and their seven defeats in 25 games to date have been spread over the whole season.

Fort Lauderdale are in effect new to the league this year although last year the team operated out of Miami as the Miami Toros. In the 1976 season as Miami the club won just six games while losing 18. Newman, who formerly coached the Dallas Tornado and last year led the Los Angeles Skyhawks to the championship of the rival American Soccer League, rebuilt the club over the winter with his key signing undoubtedly being that of Gordon Banks, the former England goalkeeper, who lost an eye as a result of an auto accident.

With the exception of Banks, the Strikers are a team without stars. In recent games Ron Newman has had a back four of Piper, Lugg, Whelan and Whittle playing in front of Banks. Norman Piper was obtained from Portsmouth, Ray Lugg from Crewe, Tony Whelan from Rochdale and Maurice Whittle from Oldham Athletic. Ray Hudson, signed from Newcastle United has proved to be the key in midfield with help from Colin Fowles who was born in Jamaica, grew up in England and is now an American citizen.

Up front the Strikers have used Gordon Fearnley from Bristol Rovers, David Irving from Oldham Athletic, George Dewsnip from Southport and George Nanchoff who was born in Yugoslavia but is now a U.S. citizen. Nanchoff, who learned his soccer at Akron University, has been one of the finds of the season. Nanchoff started the season at left back but has been scoring regularly ever since Ron Newman moved him into the attack as a result of injuries.

Hardly a list of names to compare with that of the Cosmos with Beckenbauer, Pele, Chinaglia and now Carlos Alberto in the line up and yet they have pushed what has become one of the most famous clubs in the world into at best a second place finish.

In a move that had been rumoured for some time the Cosmos announced the appointment on July 7 of Eddie Firmani as head coach succeeding Gordon Bradley who took over the role last year when Ken Furphy resigned. Bradley will remain with the club as Vice-President of Development and Player Personnel.

Resigned

Firmani, an Italian international who was born in South Africa and played for Charlton Athletic, Inter-Milan and Sampdoria, coached the Tampa Bay Rowdies to the NASL championship in 1975, a position he retained until early in June when he resigned in a surprise move citing personal reasons. Ever since that time his name has been connected with the Cosmos.

With Firmani at the helm the Cosmos continued their enigmatic in out form of recent weeks losing to both Seattle and Rochester away from home before beating Portland 2-0. Carlos Alberto, on loan from Flamengo, joined the team for this game and Robert Iarusci, the highly-promising young Canadian international, also made his debut. Iarusci, a member of the Toronto Metros-Croatia team that won the NASL title last year was signed from the Toronto club for cash undoubtedly easing Toronto's serious financial problems.

The Cosmos continue as the top drawing team in the NASL in terms of attendance with an average of 33,024, but the Minnesota Kicks are not far behind with an average of 32,133 followed by Seattle (24,236), Tampa Bay (19,981), San Jose (17,410), Dallas (16,484) and Portland (13,569).

Minnesota Kicks, beaten finalists in last year's Soccer Bowl are on the right road for another crack at the title by winning the western division championship. Coach Freddie Goodwin has relied on the nucleus of last year's team here with Geoff Barnett in goal, Steve Litt, Alan Merrick, Alan West, Ade Coker, Ron Futcher, Patrick Ntsoelengoe and Alan Willey leading the way.

Currently in second place are the Vancouver Whitecaps with the Seattle Sounders in third and the Portland Timbers bringing up the rear just as they did last season. Portland would appear at this stage to be the team that will be eliminated.

In the Southern Division the strong Dallas Tornado all but have top spot wrapped up with the Los Angeles Aztecs who led this division for a large part of the season having slipped badly in recent weeks. The other three teams here, Hawaii, San Jose and Las Vegas are covered by just four points in the fight for the third play-off spot.

Following Fort Lauderdale in the Eastern Division race are the Cosmos with Tampa Bay not far behind. Here it is a question of who will finish in second place and gain home advantage for the play-off for the Washington Diplomats are now right out of the picture.

Up in the north, Toronto, last year's champions, currently lead St. Louis by one point and the Rochester Lancers by seven. Toronto led the division in the early going but faded and St. Louis took over, but now the Metros-Croatia are back on top again and a recent 6-1 win over Canadian rivals Vancouver has once again underlined the total unpredictability of this team. In this game striker Drago Vabec scored four goals.

Toronto and St. Louis met earlier in the month in a crucial game in Toronto but the game was halted by the referee after a clash between players. NASL commissioner Phil Woosnam has ordered the game replayed and said: "Since all but two of the players on the field participated in the incident, which was a major embarrassment to the league and the sport and the blame could not be totally placed on either club, there is no alternative but to order a replay. Additional strong disciplinary action will be taken against the two clubs."

Rochester are still in with a good chance of overtaking the leaders here and the deciding game might well be in Toronto when the two teams meet in the final game of the regular season. Whatever happens Toronto, St. Louis and Rochester seem assured of play-off berths and it is just a question of order of finish.

CLUB FOCUS BY JACK ROLLIN

Levski win the Cup and League

Kiril Ivkov of Levski Spartak.

ACHIEVING the League and Cup double in Bulgaria provided Levski Spartak with their 13th and 12th honour respectively in each competition. But their prospects in Europe next season must be tempered with the thought that they will be without two key defenders.

Centre-back and captain Kiril Ivkov has been suspended for eight UEFA Competition games and right-back Nikolai Grantcharov for three as a result of misdemeanours during the Cup Winners Cup against Atletico Madrid.

The absence of Ivkov will be a considerable blow as he has been the mainstay of the defence as well as being Player of the Year in 1974 and in the following year in Bulgaria. In addition he has been a key figure in the national side.

Ivkov, a 31 year old, has made more than 300 appearances for the club which is the most popular in Bulgaria and has during the last decade vied almost solely with its great rivals CSKA Sofia the Army club for honours.

Levski Sofia was the original name of the club, the Spartak part has been added through an amalgamation in the last decade or so. Though their honours have been almost totally achieved in the post-war period, Levski's initial League success came in 1933 and this was followed up in 1937 and number three arrived in 1942.

From 1946 to 1950 Levski won four out of the five League honours, missing out to CSKA (then CDNA) in 1948. At the same time they managed to achieve League and Cup doubles on these four occasions, too.

After this the club had to take a back seat to CSKA, though they won the League again in 1953 as well as the Cup in 1956, 1957 and 1959. Levski's subsequent League titles came in 1965, 1968, 1970 (after the fusion with Spartak Sofia in 1969), 1974 and 1977.

Cup honours have also followed in 1967, 1970, 1971, 1976 and 1977. And since Spartak Sofia won the Cup in the year before the two clubs joined together, it can be argued that they have managed thirteen honours in each competition.

Bulgarian football is currently at a low ebb, though the national team still has a chance of reaching the World Cup finals next year. So even winning both League and Cup titles is not a wonderful feat in itself, especially as CSKA Sofia had for them a most disappointing season yet still managed to retain runners-up position in the League.

Emphasised

Levski beat Locomotiv Sofia 2-1 in the F.A. Cup Final and really emphasised their domination of the Bulgarian scene by recording the most wins, fewest defeats and most potent attack which hit 73 League goals alone. Only two other clubs conceded fewer goals than Levski.

Top scorer for Levski was Pavel Panov who finished with 20 goals but had an indifferent season himself and boosted his tally considerably with a few cheap goals against bottom club Dounav in a 7-0 win.

Panov, a 27 year old who plays an attacking midfield role, has made over 200 appearances for the club and is a current international, too.

Second highest marksman was Ivan Jordanov who last season completed his 200th appearance in Levski's colours at the age of 28. Jordanov scored 12 goals in the League and has also been in recent Bulgarian national team squads.

The club's trainer Vassil Spassov faces a problem of course with his selection for Europe next term and oddly enough has an unrelated midfield player of the same name recently up from the junior ranks on his staff.

Among his experienced players besides Ivkov is full-back Grantcharov, a 24 year old who is an international and will similarly be missing from the early days of the European competition.

This will undoubtedly put more of a strain on the other senior members of the defence notably the experienced Stefan Aladjov, a World Cup player for Bulgaria in 1970 and 1974 and at 29 someone who has made more than 250 appearances for Levski. Twenty-five year old left-back Ivan Tishanski has completed over 100 League appearances and was formerly with Akademisk.

Almost certain to be given a chance in the side again will be Milko Gaindarski, a 31 year old who has made around 350 appearances for Levski and whose know-how will be badly needed in Europe.

The club are well served in goal with senior choice Stefan Stoikov, a 27 year old who was in the 1974 World Cup squad and has made over 125 appearances for Levski. His understudy is Nikolai Iliev aged 25.

In midfield in addition to Panov, they can call upon two other internationals in Krasimir Borisov and Todor Barzov. Borisov has, at 27, turned out over 150 times for Levski while Barzov, a discovery from Spartak, is 24 and has played around the same number of times.

Appearances

In reserve, too, there is Stefan Pavlov, a 31 year old with experience in over 200 matches.

Two other international strikers are Voin Voinov, a 25 year old who plays on the right in attack usually and has over 100 senior games, and Kiril Milanov, a 28 year old centre-forward with more than 250 appearances.

Milanov has reserved his better goalscoring accomplishments for Europe, in fact, hitting a dozen in the Cup Winners Cup last term.

Completing the senior squad are Blagoje Krastanov and Georgi Zvetkov, both forwards. Krastanov is 27 while Zvetkov, a 30 year old, has made well over 250 appearances himself.

But Slask Wroclaw, their Polish opponents in the European Cup, will probably be grateful that Levski will be understrength when they meet this month.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

Why did Revie not leave two years ago?

OF the depressing, deplorable and disingenuous nature of Don Revie's going, enough has been said by now. I said a good deal of it myself on the television programme, "What the Papers Say". The worst of it was, however, that he went when he did. It was perfectly plain nearly two years earlier, after the tactical fiasco of Bratislava, that he wasn't the man for the job. If only the Football Association had picked him out then, perhaps we, rather than Italy, would be making plans for 1978 and Argentina.

Who, one is entitled to ask, will choose the choosers, the Senior International Committee which has served English football so thoroughly ill? There could scarcely have been a greater irony than the fact that its Chairman, Dick Wragg of Sheffield United, should have been drivelling away about his confidence in Revie — on arrival with the England team in Rio — at the very moment when Revie had slipped off to Dubai, preparatory to kicking Arabian sand in his face. Did the Senior International Committee live in this century at all, one was moved to wonder?

With Revie gone, not a moment too soon and in fact nearly two years too late, the benighted Committee found itself faced with the task of electing a successor. It was not made any easier by the fact that Dave Sexton, perhaps the most logical candidate, had ruled himself out of contention by becoming manager of Manchester United. By the time you read this, the most potent, grave and reverend signors of the Football Association, as the late John Macadam, quoting *Othello*, once termed them, may have chosen a successor. I would like it to be in due course the Welsh team manager, Mike Smith, who is in fact an Englishman, and is living, vital proof that you don't have to go through the mindless years of a professional football career to succeed at international level.

Nor, for that matter, do you have to be the manager of a professional football club. Helmut Schoen of West Germany never ran a club; nor, with the exception of six months with a minor team in the shape of Prato, did Enzo Bearzot of Italy. It does not seem to have done them any lasting damage. Indeed, it may positively have helped them.

In a sense, there is no real analogy between running a club and running an international team. I would go further and say that running a club team may in some respects even disqualify a man from running an international side. Look, if you can bear to, at Revie, a most successful manager at Leeds, a disastrous manager of England.

He simply could not get used to the different tenor and tempo of life, the comparative loneliness, the long hiatuses, the lack of a day to day contact with his men, his team.

For someone such as Schoen or Bearzot, brought up in the world of the national coaching centre, no such traumatic transition has to be made. Which is not for a moment to say that the next England appointment ought, in my view, to be made from the England coaching staff.

> *'He simply could not get used to the different tenor and tempo of life'*

Not a bit of it. Mike Smiths, Helmut Schoens and Enzo Bearzots do not, alas, grow on trees. When England *did* have a coach recruited from the coaching staff, in Walter Winterbottom, he was scarcely ideal; even if his results, over those long sixteen years, were a great deal better than Don Revie's.

Recently, I found myself on a television programme with Joe Mercer, allegedly to discuss the appointment of the next England team manager. There were two questions I was anxious to put to the amiable Joe, as a splendid footballer and a far from unsuccessful England team manager, but he went into such an overwhelming diatribe, such a torrent of verbiage, that it was impossible to do so. I shall therefore, in his absence, try to frame them now.

First, Joe Mercer was left-half in a fine and famous England team of the late 1930s which did well against European opposition. It even managed a 2-2 draw in Milan against Italy, then the World Cup holders, despite the fact that the Italian centre-forward, Silvio Piola, was allowed to punch a goal by the German referee, Dr. Pecos Bauwens.

These England teams had no manager and they were chosen by panels of selectors who were the exact equivalent of the present Senior International Committee. Yet England between the wars held its own with the best on the Continent. With the exception of a 5-2 defeat in Paris by the French, soon to be revenged, in the very early 30s, virtually every defeat was a very narrow one, and there were no defeats at all at home.

What is the implication of this? Quite simply that if left to their own devices, as most pro players were in those days, at both club and international level, footballers could work out an effective enough strategy. A really bad manager, and we have just had one, can do more harm in my view than a good one can do good. Revie's tactics on the recent South American tour made England a laughing stock and had Enzo Bearzot, a deep admirer of the English game, expressing pained incomprehension. On the 1976 tour of the United States, it is no secret that Gerry Francis, a very shrewd student of the game, had much to do with the preparation of the English forwards.

At club level, the present situation throws up its anomalies, too. By the time you read this, much will certainly have happened at Arsenal, but in the meanwhile there are a few valid points which I would like to make. Just before he decided to throw in his lot with Manchester United, Dave Sexton — who could perfectly well have been a perfectly good part-time manager of England, as Ernst Happel of Austria, and of Bruges, will be of Holland — was expected to join Arsenal. This would have meant that the North London club would have been paying two fully fledged managers in Sexton and their actual incumbent, Terry Neill, an astonishing state of affairs and an extraordinary implicit admission by both board and management.

Arsenal then flew off to Australia on their ill conceived and in my view quite misguided summer tour; into trouble with Malcolm Macdonald and Alan Hudson, both of whom were sent home.

Neill managed to "pip" his old club, Tottenham, to the signing of Macdonald, a year ago. He got a contentious and controversial player who, however, is abundantly capable of scoring goals — at club level or against Cyprus — and who proceeded to score them. Neill might say that any gamble he took had substantially paid off. But then he signed the still more controversial Alan Hudson.

Let me, as they say, declare an interest. I like Hudson as a man and admire his talents, but I would be the last person in the world to defend the bulk of his behaviour (though he was quite justified in bowing out of that Under 23 tour, some years ago). Nor would I say for a moment that he has expressed and exploited the talent he has.

It was, in my view, an act of hubris by Neill — another man I greatly like — to sign Hudson, to bring him back to a London which has always represented for him, a Londoner, an extra problem and challenge. It seemed most unlikely that he would settle quickly and happily. Nor did he.

By the time you read this, I imagine that there will have been considerable, even frenetic, activity, substantial changes. The point I wish to make is merely that the sympathetic Neill over-reached himself. The attempt to get Sexton at his side may have been, as they tend to say these days, a cry for help.

NEWS FROM HUNGARY by LESLIE VERNON

World Cup dates set

HUNGARY'S World Cup fate will be decided on October 29 and November 30. Despite Lajos Baroti's pleas the first play-off match against Bolivia will be staged in Budapest, and the return leg at La Paz. This arrangement also implies that if the score is level after the two games (away goals do *not* count double), then a decider in early December will be played on a neutral ground in Central America.

Bolivia's poor showing in the South American mini-tournament (two defeats, 0-13 goal difference!) has given the Hungarians great encouragement, and even the ever-so-cautious team manager has allowed himself to make optimistic statements: "We ought to reach the Finals," said Baroti. "We shall go to Bolivia only one day before the match to combat the effects of the high altitude. It takes about 72 hours before its full impact is felt by visiting athletes."

In the meantime, the national squad — 37 strong! — have begun their preparations for the season. Alas, Tibor Nyilasi is not with them because of an emergency appendicitis operation, but of course, he should be fully fit by October.

The clubs are also in training and there are "new faces" everywhere. Dozsa, a team without a recognised centre-back since the unauthorised departures of Horvath and Hursanyi, have signed Jozsef Kovacs from SBTC, Paroczai from Bekescsaba has joined Honved in place of Kelemen.

The veteran Lajos Szucs has also left the Army team for Second Division Vasas Izzo. MTK, under new manager Gyorgy Mezei, have changed their squad considerably.

Arrivals

Last season's top Division 2 scorer, Fulop from Szekesfehervar, Morgos from Honved and Aszalai from Csepel are the most important recruits. Three Ferencvaros youngsters, Szabo, Nerey and Onhausz, all left for the same club — Raba Eto, and there are several fresh arrivals at Csepel — Kiss, Kohalmi, Hodi and Toth. Rudolf Illovszky has retired after sterling service with Vasas.

As a player he was an outstanding international-class winger, and as a manager he won the League title with the blue-and-reds three times! His place is taken by Ferenc Kovacs (ex-Videoton), whose job in turn went to the right full-back of the "wonderteam" of the fifties, Mihaly Lantos.

The draw for the European tournaments didn't work out too badly for the Hungarians — only the Vasas camp was rather subdued when they heard the news that their first (let's hope that there will be a second!) opponents in the Champions Cup will be Moenchengladbach.

Diosgyor have a reasonable chance against Besiktas in the Cup Winners' Cup, despite Gadocha's arrival in Istanbul. Both Doza and Ferencvaros should progress in the UEFA-Cup at the expense of Linz AK and the Bulgarian Marek respectively. Finally, the story of the silliest own goal of the season. The F.A., in their infinite wisdom, decreed that during the play-off tournament for places in Division 2, drawn games would not be allowed, and if the scores were level, extra-time would be played, and if necessary, penalty-kicks would decide the fate of the two points.

Slammed

Before the Sulysap v. Epgep match, it was obvious that a one goal defeat would be enough for Sulysap to finish on top of their three-teams' League, but a heavier defeat would put Epgep into Division 2.

Forty seconds before the 90 minutes were up, the score stood at 3-3, and then Trepak, the Sulysap full back, ran with the ball towards his own goal and slammed it past his motionless goalkeeper! 4-3 to Epgep but Sulysap were promoted! (In the extra time Epgep might have scored more than once, you understand?)

But the F.A., primarily responsible for these farcical rules, compounded their own folly, by disqualifying Sulysap and promoting Epgep. All this might sound a trifle confusing and far-fetched, but it all happened. I have 3,200 witnesses plus the June 30 edition of Nepsport to prove it!

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FRANCO CUCCINOTTA, top scorer in Switzerland last season, lost no time getting back among the goals. He scored four for Zurich in the 9-0 win over Bellinzona in the league cup competition which preceded the new campaign.

• • •

PAOLO EMILIO, from Brazil, is Sporting Lisbon's new coach in succession to Jimmy Hagan. Former Yugoslav international full back TOMISLAV BELIN takes over Dynamo Zagreb. But he must make do without centre forward Zlatko Kranicar, who was hurt recently in a car crash.

New Manchester United manager Dave Sexton (right) with coach Frank Blunstone.

SEXTON IS BACKING HIMSELF

DAVE SEXTON is now completely absorbed in the biggest task he has ever tackled in a lifetime of soccer, and is backing himself to find the right answers with knowledge accumulated over three decades.

That's the position today, as the man who rebuilt Chelsea and Queen's Park Rangers plans a new future for Manchester United, who, after considerable turmoil, have come up for air again and are looking back at their fourth crisis in seven years.

Completely different to the other three who have tried their luck in the job since Sir Matt Busby's 23-year reign ended — I'm referring to Wilf McGuinness, Frank O'Farrell and Tommy Docherty — this product of London fields makes several telling points in a personal survey.

The 47-year-old talks slowly, quietly, yet confidently about —

1 Docherty and the problems of managing a top club

2 the team which he hopes to take forward to fresh honours in the new seasons

3 a policy which aims at the League title to consolidate last May's Cup triumph.

Other facets

About The Doc: "I agree with him that the job is a much bigger one than just coaching. There are many other facets. But I shall have a good try at it, and gradually get accustomed to everything.

"Certainly I could not have wished for a better playing staff than the one that was left for me, and a great part of the credit for that is due to him."

About the team: "I agree with him that its potential is tremendous, and if I can get the best out of everybody we can go a long way together.

"I've been lucky with players. I was with those I had with the London clubs, and now it is my privilege to inherit such good footballers as these at Old Trafford."

About his policy: "I'm not making any drastic alterations. Whatever system there has been with United will continue so far as I'm concerned, and I made up my mind about that straight away.

"These players have done well, after all, but I've told them they should not regard the winning of the FA Cup as the end of something, but, instead, the beginning, and that we can go forward to win the League and other honours."

About acceptance of the job: "When it was offered to me, I needed just thirty seconds to accept, for I think it is the peak of one's ambition to manage this world famous club.

"In addition to which, I am deeply conscious of the fact that United have one of the greatest crowds in football, and I can tell them I shall do my best to help preserve the great traditions."

Here, of course, is a man who came up the hard way, first as a non-League pro with Chelmsford, then, after National Service, playing for Luton, West Ham, Orient, Brighton, and Palace until injury ended his playing career.

Rash predictions

A home-spun philosopher, and one of the game's quiet characters, he admits to a dislike of wild promises or rash predictions, and is not exactly a bundle of fun when the wrong mood is in charge.

But a strong streak of loyalty runs through his personality, and he's slow to accept that not everybody possesses the same straight scruples. Here's a man to match up to Matt, who has never deviated from the straight line.

Schiaffino wa

of Urugua

JUAN ALBERTO SCHIAFFINO is now 51, and it's 34 years since he was given the opening to launch a career which brought him fame as the world's most expensive footballer. Today Schiaffino lives on the outskirts of Montevideo, his native city, in a spacious villa out towards the airport.

by KEIR RADNEDGE

"I'm not rich," he'll tell you. "But I'm not poor either."

Maybe that's because he's stayed out of football for most of the 15 years since he retired, after closing a glorious career with two years as a utility player at Roma in Italy. His steady determination to keep football at arm's length may also have something to do with the fact that his looks still belie his years.

Schiaffino is a well-enough-to-do business man. In fact, it was his business interests which cost him the chance, two years ago, to return to Italy and Milan — where he starred for six years — as coach.

The then president, Albino Buticchi, was looking for a new man to replace the Nereo Rocco-Cesare Maldini duo. He called a South American agent to sound out Schiaffino.

"It was tempting, so tempting," Schiaffino recalls. "But I had so many interests here in Uruguay. Also, there was some pressure here from people who wanted me to coach the national team. I took a fortnight's break to think it over . . . and when I came back the chance had gone. Pity."

Not so sad, I think. Schiaffino could hardly have succeeded in a club which, as he must have realised from following their fortunes in the Italian Press and the club magazine *Forza Milan*, was about to be ravaged by internal wars of terrible proportions.

There was also the fact that Schiaffino's experience as a top club coach is minimal.

He once spent six months in charge of Penarol a year ago, and at another time guided Uruguay for just two matches — one won, one lost. Now he limits himself to coaching a team of university students — "Nothing serious, just amateurs. I don't get paid a thing, but I enjoy it."

Schiaffino is a name from the great era of post-war Uruguayan football. Born on July 28, 1925, he was 18 when he joined the greatest of Montevideo clubs, Penarol — the team founded by the railway workers. That was 1943. The next year he made his first team debut; one more year and he was playing for Uruguay in the 1945 South American championship.

Nine years later he had played in only 22 internationals. But Uruguay's programme was limited. And those 22 games included two of the greatest of all time.

The one was the last match of the 1950 World Cup Finals. Before 200,000 in Maracana Brasil were the hottest of hot favourites. Yet they lost 2-1 to Uruguay, despite taking the lead. Schiaffino scored the Uruguayans' first goal and was at the heart of the move which saw Alcides Ghiggia score the winner.

He was now moving back. Having started as a goal-scoring centre forward his slight build and nimble footwork were better suited to a role as creator, and it was here that he was settled in the 1954 World Cup when Uruguay lost 4-2 to Hungary in the semi-finals.

The match went to extra time before the Uruguayans lost. Significantly it was only after Schiaffino was limping, badly caught by a late tackle, that the Hungarians made their own the game which has been described as the greatest match ever played. Schiaffino was still with Penarol then. But not for much longer.

Released

A couple of weeks later AC Milan paid a hefty fee for him. It was billed as the costliest transfer of all. In fact, though this was probably true, it now seems certain that the fee was way beyond the £72,000 popularly quoted.

Whatever the cost it proved money well spent. With Schiaffino a guiding light in midfield Milan won the championship in 1955, 1957 and 1959. In 1958 he scored a beautiful goal in an unlucky Champions' Cup Final defeat by Real Madrid and, thanks to his Italian parentage, he even played four times for Italy — the first time in a 2-0 win over Argentina just six months after that Uruguay-Hungary game.

Schiaffino possessed the ideal combination — all the skill and technique one expects of a star South American forward, plus the steely courage which makes the Uruguayans among the most feared of rivals. He was skilled, but no show-off; hard, but never unfair. In 1960 Milan released him to Roma, where he filled in a variety of roles before quitting as a player in 1962 and returning home.

Now he stands on the sidelines and watches, sadly, the demise of Uruguayan soccer. And, over the past few months, that demise — as he admits — has accelerated.

Inflation has savaged the league. Crowds are one third down on last year. Not long ago just 25,000 people in total watched the six matches of the Liga Mayor! It's a vicious circle. Because of inflation people can't afford to attend so often, so the clubs have to sell their stars abroad to survive, so the quality of the soccer deteriorates still further.

Recently several club presidents got together to call for urgent measures to resurrect soccer in a country where few players now can afford to be full-time professional. A country where the fans still recall the World Cup wins of 1930 and 1950 and *expect* that success to be repeated.

You can imagine the shock when Bolivia put the *Celeste* out of the 1978 competition!

Schiaffino, as you would expect, has his own views on that particular catastrophe.

"We missed out because our coaches weren't interested enough in the opposition. The team went to Caracas, to play Venezuela, and was rubbish. Fernando Morena missed some unbelievable chances. And the game finished in a draw. That point cost us qualification — because we didn't take enough trouble to get things right. When it came down to it we had to go to places where the climate and the atmosphere and the food was different. We weren't prepared, we didn't know what or how our opponents would play.

"So, out we go.

"In the 1950 World Cup, our victory over Brazil was a miracle. But this time we should at least have qualified! The year when the World Cup Finals are right next door, and we shan't be there. Incredible. Eliminated, by Bolivia and Venezuela of all people!"

Appeal

Schiaffino mentioned Morena, the last of Uruguay's major stars. But even the Penarol centre forward is fast losing his appeal. After failing to hit form in the early World Cup games he asked Omar Borras, the university professor who stepped in after first Eduardo Hehberg then Raul Betancour had quit, to be left out.

So not only did the 25-year-old miss the last, pointless World Cup-ties, he also missed the friendlies against West Germany (lost 2-0) and England (drew 0-0). For those games Borras rejuvenated the squad, basing his team on the Defensor side who are emerging as the once-great rivals Nacional and Penarol slide into mediocrity.

Borras, 47, is confident that in the not-too-distant future Uruguay will be back in the forefront of South American soccer. After all, haven't the youngsters just won the South American youth title? Borras based his national team, as I said, on Defensor, but reintroducing the experience of 33-year-old

atches demise

ayan soccer

Julio Montero Castillo, back in midfield after a couple of years in Spain.

That's part of the problem — the player drain. Montero Castillo was away seeking his fortune during the best years of his career when he might have been encouraging and enthralling the youngsters who are the regular first-teamers of today.

Over the years the continuing exodus has stunted the growth of Uruguayan soccer. Centre half Michele Andreolo went on to win a World Cup-winners' medal with Italy in 1938, then in the 1950s Schiaffino, Ghiggia, Julio Cesar Abbadie, and Jose Santamaria were just the tip of the iceberg. Later still Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, Pablo Forlan, and Pedro Rocha left home — going partly because they could make more in Spain and Brazil, partly because their clubs needed the cash.

The situation hasn't changed. Schemer Baudilio Jauregui was brought home from River Plate last year — and will shortly be sold to Chile. Adding insult to injury, Nacional's young midfielder Dario Pereyra is bound for Sao Paolo, where Rocha — greatest Uruguayan inside forward of the sixties — is taking Brazilian nationality to make room for the extra foreigner.

Wasted

Mazurkiewicz is now home after a wasted 18 months in Spain, but he's having more and more trouble with injuries.

Morena will soon follow his tracks to Spain, it seems. Indeed, the only reason he hasn't been sold long before is the peculiar arrangement under which he has played for Penarol for five years *on loan* from River Plate Montevideo. Any sale and the cash is split between the two clubs. Penarol have never been able to negotiate a large enough fee. Now, with Morena's star on the wane, they may be ready to cut their losses and accept a mere £150,000 from, it is whispered, Salamanca.

At least Penarol president Washington Cataldi will be able to justify the sale of Morena on cash grounds, even if his club's situation is not quite as desperate as that of Sebastian Bauza, president of Bella Vista, who recently warned: "If crowds don't go up in another two months' time we won't be able to pay our players any wages."

Schiaffino thinks he knows what's wrong — but he has few solutions to offer in a troubled land.

"Do you know, I think West Germany has more footballers than we have inhabitants? We are a country of three million people. Yet even our average players go abroad looking for better offers and easy money.

"Here the pay is low, few players can afford the luxury of going full-time and the mental attitude is all wrong. Players of barely 20 think they've made it. They try all the clever-clever stuff, everyone plays for himself . . . It's very hard to drive into their heads the need for team work.

"Even the public need educating. They applaud the dribbles, the body swerves. And that's it. The players play up to the fans. Who can blame them? But what can the trainers do? They'll just have to get together to talk out the answers."

Looking ahead to next year, Schiaffino foresees a final between Brazil and Argentina, because he expects the South American giants to be more at home in the conditions and the atmosphere. Also, he was impressed by the potential of Brazil in the games against West Germany, England and Poland.

And Italy? . . . And Schiaffino has no doubt it *will* be Italy there next year, not England.

"Italy will be in the first five. But that's all. There are too many Italians in Argentina for them to be able to play in a calm enough situation. At least, from what I've read, I understand they have made a lot of progress. I'm sure they'll be in Argentina. I've had a long talk too with Enzo Bearzot, the Italian coach. I don't think there's any doubt Italy will qualify."

Schiaffino was confirmed in his views by England's performance in the 0-0 draw with Uruguay in the Centenario stadium recently.

"Uruguay are poor now. We all know it. But I just couldn't understand England. If they really want to go to Argentina why didn't they look interested? The team were slow in their build-up towards goal, didn't offer any variety in attack and seemed in the main to be afraid of losing.

"Where will that get them?"

What a parallel — Uruguay and England, two great soccer nations of the past fallen on hard times. There was something appropriate about that 0-0 draw. But when, after all is said and done, will these two countries be back where tradition demands?

BILBAO'S RECORD

•Continued from page 27

BILBAO CUP TRIUMPHS 1939 — today

1943 — Madrid — Bilbao 1, Real Madrid 0
Lezama; Miera, Oceja; Ortuzar, Ortiz, Nando; Elices, Panizo, Zarra, Urra, Gainza.

1944 — Barcelona — Bilbao 2, Valencia 0
Lezama; Arqueta, Oceja; Celaya, Bertol, Nando; Irlondo, Escudero, Zarra, Panizo, Gainza.

1945 — Barcelona — Bilbao 3, Valencia 2
Lezama; Bergareche, Mieza; Celaya, Bertol, Nando; Irlondo, Venancio, Zarra, Panizo, Gainza.

1950 — Madrid — Bilbao 4, Valladolid 1
Lezama; Canito, Arete, Atambari; Manolin, Nando; Irlondo, Venancio, Zarra, Panizo, Gainza.

1956 — Madrid — Bilbao 1, Sevilla 0
Carmelo; Orue, Garay, Artiche; Mauri, Maguregui; Azcarate, Marcaida, Arieta, Uribe, Gainza.

1956 — Madrid — Bilbao 2, Atletico Madrid 1
Carmelo; Orue, Garay, Canito; Mauri, Maguregui; Uribe, Marcaida, Arieta, Arteche, Gainza.

1958 — Madrid — Bilbao 2, Real Madrid 0
Carmelo; Orue, Garay, Canito; Mauri, Elura; Arteche, Aguirre, Arieta, Uribe, Gainza.

1969 — Madrid — Bilbao 1, Elche 0
Iribar; Saez, Aranguren, Echevarria, Iparlea; Larrauri, Clemente; Argoitia, Uriarte, Arieta, Rojo I.

1973 — Madrid — Bilbao 2, Castellon 0
Iribar; Saez, Guisasola, Larrauri, Zubiaga; Villar, Uriarte, Rojo II; Lasa, Arieta, Rojo I.

Runners-up: 1942, 1949, 1953, 1966, 1967, 1977.
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: 1943, 1956.
Runners-up: 1941, 1947, 1952, 1970.

BILBAO IN EUROPE

CHAMPIONS' CUP
1956-57
2-1 3-2 v Porto
3-2 3-2 v Honved
5-3 0-3 v Manchester United (quarter finals)

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
1969-70
3-0 0-3 v Manchester City
1973-74
0-0 2-0 v Torpedo Moscow
0-3 1-0 v Rerce Stara Zagora

FAIRS/UEFA CUP
1964-65
2-2 2-0 v OFK Belgrade
2-3 1-0 V Antwerp
1-3 0-1 2-1 v Dunfermline
0-1 2-1 0-3 v Ferencvaros (quarter finals)
1966-67
0-5 2-3 v Red Star Belgrade
1967-68
1-4 3-2 v Frem Copenhagen
3-1 1-0 v Bordeaux
1-2 1-2 v Ferencvaros
1968-69
2-1 1-2 (loss of coin) v Liverpool
0-0 1-0 v Panathinaikos
1-2 1-1 v Eintracht Frankfurt
1-4 2-0 v Glasgow Rangers (quarter finals)
1970-71
0-2 1-1 v Sparta Prague
1971-72
1-2 3-0 v Southampton
1-2 3-2 v Eintracht Braunschweig
1976-77
0-1 5-0 v Upjest Dozsa
1-1 3-1 v Basle
4-1 1-3 v AC Milan
2-1 2-2 v Barcelona (quarter finals)
1-1 0-0 v RWD Molenbeek (semi finals)
0-1 2-1 v Juventus (final — lost on away goal)

Played 56 Won 27 Drawn 12 Lost 17 Goals for 83 Against 74

Swedish goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstrom saves from a Swiss attack during a World Cup tie.

Basle win 'final'

THE LONGEST season in the history of Swiss football ended after ten-and-a-half months with a one-match play-off between the top clubs Basel and Servette, who finished level on points. Before a crowd of 50,000 in a packed Wankdorf stadium in Bern, Basel came back from a 0-1 deficit to win this championship "final" thanks to goals by Mundschin and von Wartburg.

Thus, the Basler clinched their seventh title — the sixth under their German manager Helmut Benthaus! Servette, for whom the former Tottenham and England forward Martin Chivers had a disappointing game, fought hard and were perhaps unlucky when Pfister missed an easy chance. A bad mistake by von Wartburg let the international striker clean through; he shot past the 'keeper, but also past the post! Ironically enough, it was the same von Wartburg who scored Basel's winning goal . . .

The new champions' FC Basel's "visiting card":
Founded: November 15, 1893. Club president: Dr. René Theler, since 1976. Manager: Helmut Benthaus, since 1965, Assistant and coach: Bruno Michaud. New players engaged for the past season: Lauscher (FC Cologne, Germany), Maradan (Grenchen), and Maissen (own junior ranks). Departures: Hasler (to Xamax) and Rahmen (to Lucerne), New players for 1977-78: Kung (Xamax) and Schär (Oensingen). Honours: Seven times champions: 1953, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1973 and 1977. Cup winners: five times — 1933, 1947, 1963, 1967 and 1975.

Servette had some consolation by winning the League Cup (2-0 v. Neuchatel Xamax) which already qualified the club for a place in the UEFA-Cup, since under the rota system Switzerland were this time allowed to enter three teams, so that the SFV, in order to make the League Cup more attractive, promised the winners a place in Europe.

It is too early to say whether the new Swiss championship formula was a success, or an outright failure. Certainly, the unusual way of deciding the title, in two stages as it were, has divided the sporting public. Gates were up during the initial phase, when the twelve clubs played against each other home and away in the generally accepted formula. But when the top six teams were left to fight for the title, only they enjoyed good attendances, whilst the bottom half-dozen clubs deciding relegation experienced an appalling slump in interest.

Yet the Swiss League can be proud of at least that fact, that it has become the second most prolific in Europe. With 3,32 goals per match the "National-Liga" ranks next only to the West German Bundesliga (average 3,54). England's First Division remains well down the table in just 19th place on 2,55 goals per match.

Switzerland's "Footballer of the Year", as chosen by his playing colleagues, is "Joko" Pfister of Servette, who collected ten votes (from 36 entitled to vote). He was followed by Umberto Barberis (Servette) and Franco Cucinotta (Zürich) both on six votes. As the most popular foreigner, the Dane Eigil Nielsen (Basel) got the "Oscar" followed by the Germans' Günter Netzer and Hanjo Weller. Martin Chivers finished in modest sixth place, together with the two other Germans, Dieter Schwemmle and Herbert Stöckl.

On the international front the old season closed with a prestige win and a conclusive defeat for the Helvetians. In a friendly they beat European champions Czechoslovakia by 1-0 and in a World Cup qualifying tie the 1-2 set back in Sweden ended the last flickering hopes of reaching the final rounds. The success over an admittedly poor Czech team was Switzerland's first after more than a year!

Before just 8,000 fans, the smallest attendance ever recorded at the St. Jakob stadium in Basel for a full international, a headed goal by Kudi Müller 20 minutes from the end brought the first win over the East Europeans for 29 years! It was, one must record, Switzerland's first international goal (apart from penalties) after nearly ten hours play . . .

BRITISH IS BEST —not quite but nearly

A personal view expressed by KEN GOLDMAN

SCARCELY had the champagne dried from the bottom of Liverpool's European Cup than one was reading in these pages an article by Eric Batty, advocating that during the last 20 years British fans have rarely had the chance to see any good football.

Whilst one appreciates that Eric is an acknowledged expert on European football I must beg to differ on where British Football stands both in Europe and the rest of the world.

Both Brian Glanville and Leslie Vernon in World Soccer have sought to make it clear that British Football is not in the words of our last European Song Contest entry "Rock Bottom" and this despite several weak performances by the National Team during the 1976/77 season and the ambiguous results of their South American Tour.

This is borne out by John Lyall, team manager of West Ham and another great student and devotee of Continental Football. He explained to me recently: "The Football League is still accepted as the best all-round league in the world but we must produce players capable of being outstanding to compete within it. Our players are as fit and well prepared as anybody's but nevertheless it is important to create the techniques of the continentals while aiming to try to withstand the physical demands of our own game."

Another confirmation of the all-round strength of British football came towards the end of last season paradoxically in the lower divisions where Barnet of the First Division South of the Southern League (with a team who eventually won their League) easily defeated Stromsgodset, one of the strongest teams in Norway and whose previous sides had competed in European Competition against Arsenal and Liverpool.

British successes in the old Fairs Cup and present EUFA Cup have been legion over the years and no one can say that the Spurs side of the early sixties were not as good a club as any in the world.

High class

Indeed the triangles played between Blanchflower, White and Medwin or Cliff Jones were of such high class that they compared favourably with those of the Hungarian trio Bozsik, Hidegkuti and Budai or Toth in their two defeats of England in 1953 and 1954.

The Director of Coaching Allen Wade wrote recently in "Soccer Insight", the magazine of the F.A. Coaching Scheme: "We have been to the bottom of the barrel and our game is on the upturn — only just but definitely and the process will be gradual."

It is easy to look at a detail from a painting and make assessments only on that, but the art critic must look at the overall picture and consider it also on a comparative level.

Thus in a recent speech given at a coaches' dinner Bob Wilson was at pains to stress that football is a game of "ups and downs" and if we have been down for a while we have certainly never been out for the count.

Our coaches are still highly respected and sort after throughout the world with the F.A. receiving constant requests to send qualified men to all four corners of the globe.

Home-grown

Indeed British Coaches are National Coaches in such countries as Malawi, New Zealand, Australia, Eire and the U.S.A. where Phil Woosnam is Chief Commissioner while another, George Curtis, has just finished a long stint as National Coach to Norway.

Even in the realms of football instruction there is a place to be found abroad for our home-grown product. Martin Tyler, a contributor to this magazine, has just written an excellent book aimed ostensibly at the American market entitled *Enjoying Soccer*, published by the Paddington Press Limited at £1.95 in limp cover. This runs to 159 pages of carefully explained diagrams, text and photographs and deals with such techniques as heading, passing, kicking, goalkeeping and for good measure throw-ins and the laws of the game, exercises for keeping fit, a short explanation of systems of play and gives details of some interesting famous incidents.

SNAPS

Dieter Muller of FC Cologne set a Bundesliga record in West Germany when he scored six of his side's goals in their 7-2 home win over Werder Bremen.

• • •

A goal by captain John Greig gave Rangers a 1-0 home win over Young Boys of Berne in a European Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round, first leg, tie.

• • •

A NASL soccer play-off match in New York attracted a crowd of more than 77,000 — a record. Pictured right Franz Beckenbauer (6) and Terry Garbett of the Cosmos in action against George Best of the Los Angeles Aztecs.

• • •

Former Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty has had talks with Lillestroem of Norway about becoming their manager in a few weeks' time. Manchester United toured Norway earlier this year.

News from SPAIN

by Keir Radnedge

SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINGENT IN TROUBLE

EVERY YEAR it's the same — the South American contingent go home for the holidays and, when their Spanish owners call them up again for pre-season training, they miss their flights.

The usual palaver has been repeated this summer, with Nino Arrua, Ramon Heredia and Carlos Guerini the big-name culprits.

Arrua, the temperamental Paraguayan centre forward who faces a season in the second division after Zaragoza's relegation, is always in trouble at this time.

Last year he said he wouldn't return unless he were transferred to a big club, this year he tried to find himself a place in the Boca Juniors squad now going hell-bent for the Copa Libertadores.

Arrua had a meeting in South America with Boca coach Juan Carlos Lorenzo and Zaragoza wouldn't have been too upset at selling him, to save these annual upsets. Lorenzo, however, clearly didn't fancy disturbing his team at this crucial time and advised his directors against putting in an official bid.

At first Arrua threatened to quit soccer if Zaragoza wouldn't release him. However, having discovered that no-one else wanted him, he had to cave in and fly back to Spain.

Heredia also returned — albeit a week late, blaming his troubles on family and business problems. It's no secret that Argentina's 1974 World Cup defender has been unhappy about his role at Atletico since he was displaced as sweeper by Luis Pereira.

"If I can't find a place in the team, I want to move on," he said at one stage in the middle of last season and he has been among the targets for Argentine clubs hopeful of buying back some of their exiles.

Both Boca and River Plate showed more than a passing interest in Heredia, who trained with both sets of players during his holiday back in Buenos Aires. Atletico, however, were adamant that until Heredia returned to Spain they would talk to no-one.

Meanwhile there is also a question mark against the future — though in a different sphere — of Luis Pereira. The Brazilian centre back returned to South America to help Brazil into the World Cup Finals via the Colombia play-offs against Peru and Bolivia, but is far from guaranteed a place in Argentina next summer.

For one thing, Pereira was criticised as stale by a number of Brazilian fans, officials and critics — not surprising when you consider he has been playing for nearly two years non-stop and on the other hand Atletico weren't too happy at a key player using his short holiday for World Cup duty.

If a lot of Spanish officials had their way, foreign players would be barred from appearing for their countries, and Atletico rate their Champions' Cup aspirations next season a great deal higher than Brazil's World Cup hopes. The quality of football in Argentina next year, they appear to be saying, is not their responsibility.

It's the same old club v country battle, which could resolve itself, unwittingly, in Atletico's favour. Next year Brazil manager Claudio Coutinho will want his squad together for at least two or three months before the Finals and that — as Pereira himself sadly admits — could keep him on the sidelines.

Transfer activity has been limited this summer. Bilbao are paying £190,000 for Santander centre forward Aitor Aguirre, while Sevilla, Salamanca and Hercules are queueing up in the hope of persuading Penarol to release Uruguayan centre forward Fernando Morena.

Barcelona, too, are looking for another striker, and could go for one of two Argentinians — Elch's Mario Finarolli, of Las Palmas' Carlos Morete. In the meantime they hope Johan Cruyff will think again about his recent announcement that he will retire at the end of the season.

Adamant

Cruyff says this decision was made a long time ago, and it will disappoint Dutch clubs Ajax, Feyenoord and Alkmaar, who had hoped he would return for one more season in his home country before calling it a day. Cruyff remains adamant also that he will not take part in the World Cup Finals, should Holland qualify.

So much for the future. Of more immediate concern is the fact that the three-times European footballer of the year will be out for up to two months after suffering a thigh injury early on during the 6-0 friendly match humiliation by Hamburg (and Kevin Keegan) in West Germany.

SPANISH LEAGUE FIXTURES 1977-78

Note: The calendar was drawn up twice over, to allow for Spain's possible World Cup qualification. The dates in brackets after the fixtures are the dates for the reversal of fixtures in the second half of the season. If Spain qualify for the World Cup Finals the first date given will apply. If Spain do not qualify, matches will be played on the second date. All clear?

Sept 4. — Sevilla-Espanol. Salamanca-Real Madrid. Las Palmas-Burgos. Hercules-Gijon. Santander-Elche. Cadiz-R. Vallecano. At. Madrid-Valencia. Barcelona-Real Sociedad. Bilbao-Betis. (January 8 or 22).

September 11. — Espanol-Bilbao. Real Madrid-Sevilla. Burgos-Salamanca. Gijon-Las Palmas. Elche-Hercules. R. Vallecano-Santander. Valencia-Cadiz. Real Sociedad-At. Madrid. Betis-Barcelona. (January 18 or 29).

September 18. — Espanol-Real Madrid. Sevilla-Burgos. Salamanca-Gijon. Las Palmas-Elche. Hercules-R. Vallecano. Santander-Valencia. Cadiz-Real Sociedad. At. Madrid-Betis. Bilbao-Barcelona. (January 22 or February 5).

September 25. — Real Madrid-Bilbao. Burgos-Espanol. Gijon-Sevilla. Elche-Salamanca. R. Vallecano-Las Palmas. Valencia-Hercules. Real Sociedad-Santander. Betis-Cadiz. Barcelona-At. Madrid. (January 29 or February 12).

October 2. — Real Madrid-Burgos. Espanol-Gijon. Sevilla-Elche. Salamanca-R. Vallecano. Las Palmas-Valencia. Hercules-Real Sociedad. Santander-Betis. Cadiz-Barcelona. Bilbao-At. Madrid. (February 5 or 19).

October 9. — Burgos-Bilbao. Gijon-Real Madrid. Elche-Espanol. R. Vallecano-Sevilla. Valencia-Salamanca. Real Sociedad-Las Palmas. Betis-Hercules. Barcelona-Santander. At. Madrid-Cadiz. (February 12 or 26).

October 16. — Burgos-Gijon. Real Madrid-Elche. Espanol-R. Vallecano. Sevilla-Valencia. Salamanca-Real Sociedad. Las Palmas-Betis. Hercules-Barcelona. Santander-At. Madrid. Bilbao-Cadiz. (February 15 or March 5).

October 30. — Gijon-Bilbao. Elche-Burgos. R. Vallecano-Real Madrid. Valencia-Espanol. Real Sociedad-Sevilla. Betis-Salamanca. Barcelona-Las Palmas. At. Madrid-Hercules. Cadiz-Santander. (February 19 or March 12).

Spanish Cup winners Real Betis.

One man back in the fray, however, is Miguel Munoz. The former Real Madrid boss who resigned in the spring of 1974 and has, since then, spent one year at work with a poor Granada side, has taken over as manager of Las Palmas. Here he teams up with Antonio Betancourt, the Madrid goalkeeper during Munoz's better days and who is now Las Palmas' general manager.

Munoz's original club, Madrid, are bound "for a great season," according to veteran skipper Jose Pirri. He made this rash prediction during the Press talk-in which followed the first pre-season training session. He drew this encouragement from the signings of Quique Wolff and the newly-married Uli Stielike, both of whom were soon getting to know most of their new team mates.

One man missing, however, was Argentine left winger Carlos Guerini. Like Heredia and Arrua he had been strangely delayed in South America . . .

While on the subject of Madrid, let me mention one change in the coaching staff. Former Champions' Cup-winning right half Juan Santisteban has taken over affiliated lower-division club, Castilla, instead of Amancio, who had been favoured for the job.

The reaction to the European Cup draws was generally good. The toughest proposition fell to Betis, who face Milan in the Cup-winners' Cup. In the Champions' Cup Atletico Madrid should beat Dinamo Bucharest — as they did on their way to the final in 1974 — and in the UEFA Cup Barcelona (against Steaua), Bilbao (against Servette), and Las Palmas (against Yugoslavia's Sloboda Tuzla) should all make progress.

SPANISH CUP (two legs).— First round; Sept 14 and 28. Second round: November 2 and 16. Third round: December 14 and 28 or February 8 and 22. Fourth round: January 11 and 18 or March 22 and April 5. Fifth round: February 8 and 22 or April 19 and May 21. Quarter finals: March 22 and April 5 or May 28 and June 4. Semi-finals: April 23 and 30 or June 11 and 18. Final: May 7 or June 24.

NOTE. – These fixtures were released at the FEF annual meeting on July 8. English readers intending to take in a match while on holiday would be advised to check the progress of the calendar, before they leave, through the foreign football results sections in 'The Times' or 'The Guardian'.

November 6.— Gijon-Elche. Burgos-R. Vallecano. Real Madrid-Valencia. Espanol-Real Sociedad. Sevilla-Betis. Salamanca-Barcelona. Las Palmas-At. Madrid. Hercules-Cadiz. Bilbao-Santander. (February 26 or March 19).

November 13. — Elche-Bilbao. R. Vallecano-Gijon. Valencia-Burgos. Real Sociedad-Real Madrid. Betis-Espanol. Barcelona-Sevilla. At. Madrid-Salamanca. Cadiz-Las Palmas. Santander-Hercules. (March 5 or 26).

November 20. — Elche-R. Vallecano. Gijon-Valencia. Burgos-Real Sociedad. Real Madrid-Betis. Espanol-Barcelona. Sevilla-At. Madrid. Salamanca-Cadiz. Las Palmas-Santander. Bilbao-Hercules. (March 8 or April 2).

December 4. — R. Vallecano-Bilbao. Valencia-Elche. Real Sociedad-Gijon. Betis-Burgos. Barcelona-Real Madrid. At. Madrid-Espanol. Cadiz-Sevilla. Santander-Salamanca. Hercules-Las Palmas. (March 12 or April 9).

December 11. — R. Vallecani-Valencia. Elche-Real Sociedad. Gijon-Betis. Burgos-Barcelona. Real Madrid-At. Madrid. Espanol-Cadiz. Sevilla-Santander. Salamanca-Hercules. Bilbao-Las Palmas. (March 19 or April 16).

December 18. — Valencia-Bilbao. Real Sociedad-R. Vallecano. Betis-Elche. Barcelona-Gijon. At. Madrid-Burgos. Cadiz-Real Madrid. Santander-Espanol. Hercules-Sevilla. Las Palmas-Salamanca. (March 26 or April 23).

December 21 or January 1. — Valencia-Real Sociedad. R. Vallecano-Betis. Elche-Barcelona. Gijon-At. Madrid. Burgos-Cadiz. Real Madrid-Santander. Espanol-Hercules. Sevilla-Las Palmas. Bilbao-Salamanca. (April 2 or 30).

January 1 or 8. — Bilbao-Real Sociedad. Betis-Valencia. Barcelona-R. Vallecano. At. Madrid-Elche. Cadiz-Gijon. Santander-Burgos. Hercules-Real Madrid. Las Palmas-Espanol. Salamanca-Sevilla. (April 9 or May 7).

January 4 or 15. — Real Sociedad-Betis. Valencia-Barcelona. R. Vallencano-At. Madrid. Elche-Cadiz. Gijon-Santander. Burgos-Hercules. Real Madrid-Las Palmas. Espanol-Salamanca. Sevilla-Bilbao. (April 16 or May 14).

BRAZIL, PE

South Ame conti

The quality of a couple of Brazilian players like Rivelino and Zico, who merely reaffirmed their class, was not enough to cover up the low standard of the final South American qualifying round for the World Cup finals played at Cali, Colombia, which, as expected, was easily won by Brazil with Peru taking the second qualifying place.

Bolivia, the third team in this final qualifying tournament between the three South American preliminary group winners, get another chance when they meet Hungary, the European group 9 winners, in a final eliminator later this year. But on their showing in Cali they seem to have little chance and Hungarian coach Lajos Baroti, in Cali on a spying mission, seemed to think so too.

Here were what are supposed to be three of the four best teams in South America showing a low standard of play and an almost complete absence of players of any class. The fourth team are Argentina (automatic qualifiers as hosts for next year's World Cup finals) who showed their deficiencies during a recent series of seven international games against European sides in Buenos Aires, so that all in all this indicates an alarming slide in the quality of South American soccer at a vital time.

Brazil were, as expected, the best team by a long way, but they were hardly good and in the first match they were stretched to the full all the way before deservedly beating a poor Peruvian side 1-0. Only Rivelino showed a little of his quality and experience, backed by Dirceu, another of Brazil's few successes . . . but this was little to compensate for the lack of creativity from the rest of the team.

Faults

Brazil showed up better against Bolivia, but this was hardly due to their improvement as a team and rather the result of outstanding displays by Zico, Rivelino and Dirceu, specially the first mentioned who scored four times in the 8-0 win against rivals who made the way to goal easy for Brazil because of their many faults.

It is therefore hardly surprising that in spite of this success, Brazil decided to dissolve their squad after the match and rumours still persisted that present coach Claudio Coutinho may not be called on again when the squad for Argentina is reassembled in January — with probable changes — or perhaps not until March.

Peru showed the same faults as Brazil on a bigger scale. While many of their players may be experienced World Cup campaigners — Chumpitaz, Melendez, Cubillas, Ramirez, Muñante, Sotil, Rojas and others — they are getting to the veteran stage and showing the results of lengthy careers at home and abroad. They were also in poor physical shape and definitely did not look up to the standard of World Cup finalists.

The Peruvianselection has been taken over by a government-run World Cup committee in an all out effort to do well in the competition, but they will have to improve greatly in a short time if this is to be achieved. Their many World Cup veterans are not getting younger or better, while Peru can hardly find experienced players to replace them in time.

Bolivia, although never looked upon as serious candidates, were nevertheless expected to put up a fight after surprising the soccer world by knocking out Uruguay to win their World Cup qualifying group. Their performance was however lamentable as most of the players were not in the same class (in experience and technique) as their rivals and at times looked like amateurs. After their 8-0 drubbing against Brazil, their fighting spirit seemed to have gone and the 5-0 defeat against a poor Peruvian team came as no surprise.

Bolivian newspapers mostly blamed their officials for the disaster. Their poor organisation of things concerning the national squad caused rifts within the team and players came to blows just before the first match against Brazil. It seems that as many as 14 officials travelled with the Bolivian team to Colombia and it may have been a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth, topped by the power struggle between delegation chief Mario Suarez and Bolivian FA president Mauro Cuellar. The debacle was too great to have been caused by the absence of one of Bolivia's best players, forward Ovidio Mezza, who had been suspended by the Bolivian FA for disciplinary reasons.

On the whole it was little wonder that the fans who filled the 62,000 capacity Pascual Guerrero stadium for the first match were later somewhat indifferent to the proceedings and for the last match there were wide open spaces in the stands.

BRAZIL 1, PERU 0

PERU did not mark closely (allowing Brazil to play the game they prefer), thus giving their rivals a great advantage which they did not take and only a miracle stopped Peru from taking the lead in the first half after a bad defensive mistake by Edinho.

But generally little of Peru was seen in attack with Cubillas hanging back. Yet the Peruvian attack was made to look better than it actually was by Brazilian defensive mistakes.

Rivelino maintained midfield control for Brazil and things improved when Dirceu came on as a second half substitute to help him. But Brazil missed Zico (suspended by FIFA after being sent off in a previous World Cup match) in attack and after Gil scored the winner seven minutes into the second half, they actually fell back, leaving only Roberto and Paulo Cesar up.

Peru's coach, Marcos Calderon, complained afterwards that Argentine referee Comesaña had robbed them of two penalties and added that the match had been poor because of an excess of nerves and speculating on both sides.

BRAZIL 8, BOLIVIA 0

BRAZIL made three obvious changes for the next match — bringing back wonder boy Zico for Paulo Cesar, replacing defender Edinho (who had a poor match against Peru) with Amaral and putting Dirceu (who had a good second half against Peru) into the starting line up . . . and it was a cake walk all the way.

Brazil controlled play from the start and scored at regular intervals (3, 10, 22 and 27 minutes) to lead 4-0 at halftime and increasing after 8, 15, 24 and 44 minutes of the second half. Zico finished up with four goals — he had opened the way with two in the first 10 minutes — and the other scorers were Roberto, Gil, Cerezo and Marcelo who came on for Zico near the end. Bolivia, as mentioned before, looked like a bunch of amateurs and Brazilian goalie Leao had only one dangerous shot to save.

PERU 5, BOLIVIA 0

PERU took half an hour to get the first of their five goals in a poor match and that goal came only because veteran Cubillas, although slower than ever, was given all the room in the world by the Bolivian defence.

The score gave Peru more confidence and their technical superiority and individual ability began to show against Bolivia's fitter players.

Cubillas added the second just on halftime and that seemed to satisfy Peru as they let Bolivia have more of the ball after the interval. Bolivia lacked the intelligence to take the initiative however and as play deteriorated, Velazquez (2) and Rojas increased Peru's lead. The best thing of the match was the former's 35 metre scoringshot.

SIDELIGHTS

● Colombia is due to stage the 1986 World Cup finals and while this will be a far more difficult project than the organisation of the three-team South American final round, it is worthy of mention that organisation was excellent during the eight-day tournament. The 62,000 capacity "Pascual Guerrero" stadium was presentable and clean (in spite of fears to the contrary), organisation and seating arrangements were perfect and the press was given every possible assistance throughout the tournament.

There had been complaints to the organisers earlier from the Foreign Press Association (APE) in Colombia about lack of cooperation and facilities, but this was caused by the late designation of Cali to stage the tournament (after the three participants had

RU QUALIFY

ican standards rue to slide...

failed to agree on a venue) and then the uncertainty, for a time, over whether it would have to be shifted to another town in Colombia because of a 15% municipal tax on admission tickets in Cali.

●Cali, 540 kilometres southwest of the country's capital, Bogota, is 1000 metres above sea level and has an average temperature of 25°C. Its population is around the 1,200,000 mark. The highest attendance at the three matches barely reached the 50,000 mark. Bigger attendances may have been expected, but the quality of the soccer offered may have had something to do with it.

Also, ticket prices ranged from 50 to 350 pesos and the average monthly salary of a labourer in Cali is only around 1800 pesos. The influx of Brazilian fans was also smaller than expected as the Brazilian government apparently requires Brazilians travelling along a route to the United States (such as Colombia) to deposit 1200 dollars.

● The not too plentiful hotel space was completely booked however soon after Cali was chosen to stage the tournament. Fans from abroad, mostly Peruvians, roamed through the streets in search of lodgings and numerous caravans could be seen near the stadium during the tournament.

● Brazilian coach Claudio Coutinho fell foul of the Brazilian press in Cali when he refused to let journalists into the team's training quarters. Coutinho's relations with the press in Brazil is one of the reasons behind the bitter press campaign against him at home which is creating a climate likely to bring his eventual removal from the job.

Paulo Cesar, one of Brazil's longest serving internationals (since 1969), was left out of the squad for the match against Bolivia after an incident with two Brazilian journalists after the first match against Peru and Brazilian officials said further sanctions may be taken against him on his return home. Such is the power of the (Brazilian) press.

● Brazil's team was disbanded after this tournament and is not likely to be called up again until the end of the year, or perhaps even in March, depending on the clubs who will now have first claim on the players until the end of the domestic season. There are likely to be changes in the squad, more so if, as is continually rumoured, Coutinho is not asked to continue as coach.

Roberto of Brazil.

ARG

ASIA

Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77

OCEANIA

Winner to be known by 31.7.77

Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong Indonesia Malaysia Thailand Singapore Sri Lanka	Israel Japan Rep. Korea	Iran Saudi Arabia Syria	Bahrain Kuwait Qatar	Australia New Zealand Taiwan
Hong Kong	Rep. Korea	Iran	Kuwait	Australia

1.4 to 31.7.77
Winner ASIA — 1.8 to 30.11.77

Qualified for Argentina

ASIA/OCEANIA

Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand 6, Taiwan 0
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14	4	5
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 1
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 6, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 2, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

Group 2
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. 3, Israel 1
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 1, Japan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea Rep.	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Israel	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Group 3
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 2, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
28. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
22. 4.77 Iran v Saudi Arabia
8. 4.77 Iran 2, Syria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	3	0	0	8	0	6
Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	2	3	5	2
Syria	4	1	0	3	2	6	2

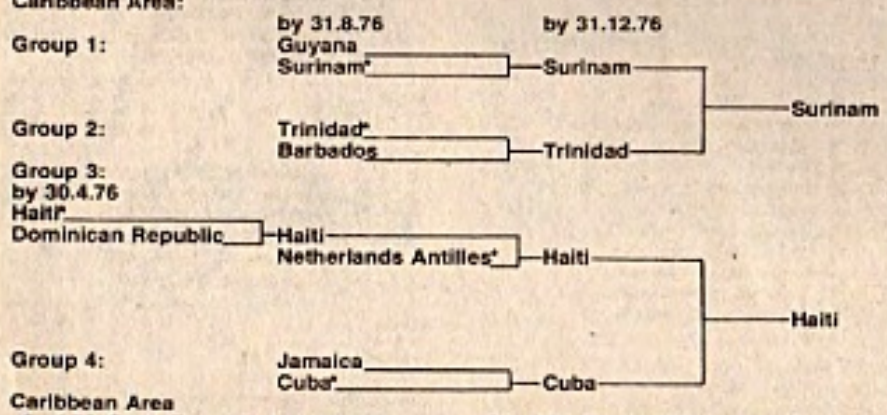
Group 4
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 0, Qatar 2
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 1, Kuwait 2
Qatar 0, Bahrain 3
Qatar 1, Kuwait 4
(all matches played in Qatar)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10	2	8
Qatar	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4	6	2

19. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Iran 2
26. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Korea Rep. 1
3. 7.77 Korea Rep. 0, Iran 0
10. 7.77 Australia 3, Hong Kong 0
14. 8.77 Australia 0, Iran 1
27. 8.77 Australia v Korea Rep.

CONCACAF

Caribbean Area:



Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1 (3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

EUROPE

Group 1
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark 1, Poland 2
15. 5.77 Cyprus 1, Poland 3
21. 9.77 Poland v Denmark
29.10.77 Poland v Portugal
16.11.77 Portugal v Cyprus
Denmark v Portugal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Denmark	4	2	0	2	11	4	4
Portugal	3	2	0	1	3	3	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Group 2
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 2, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg 0, Finland 1
8. 6.77 Finland 0, Italy 3
12.10.77 Luxembourg v England
15.10.77 Italy v Finland
16.11.77 England v Italy
3.12.77 Italy v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
England	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
Finland	5	2	0	3	10	10	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	17	0

Group 3
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta 0, German DR 1
17. 4.77 Austria 1, Turkey 0
30. 4.77 Austria 9, Malta 0
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR
12.10.77 German DR v Austria
29.10.77 German DR v Malta
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
Germany DR	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	2	3
Malta	4	0	0	4	0	15	0

Group 4
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium 0, Netherlands 2
11. 6.77 Iceland 1, Northern Ireland 0
31. 8.77 Netherlands v Iceland
4. 9.77 Belgium v Iceland
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 5
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 6.77 Bulgaria 2, Eire 1
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria

ENTINA '78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Eire	3	1	0	2	2	4	2

Group 6
16. 6.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
8. 6.77 Sweden v Switzerland
7. 9.77 Norway v Sweden
30.10.77 Switzerland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	0	6	2	6
Norway	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

Group 7
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania 1, Spain 0
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 2
6.10.77 Spain v Rumania
3.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia
30.11.77 Yugoslavia v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR 2, Greece 0
30. 4.77 Hungary 2, USSR 1
10. 5.77 Greece 1, USSR 0
18. 5.77 USSR 2, Hungary 0
25. 5.77 Hungary 3, Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
USSR	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Canada	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3	4	4

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Savador 2, Guatemala 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15	6	8
El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Panama	6	1	1	4	7	21	3

AFRICA

Extra Preliminary Time limit: 31.3.76	1st Round Time limit: 31.10.76	2nd Round Time limit: 28.2.77	3rd Round Time limit: 31.7.77	Concluding Matches Time limit: 30.11.77
	1. Algeria / Libya	Algeria	Tunisia	
	2. Morocco / Tunisia	Tunisia		I
	3. Senegal / Togo	Togo	Guinea	
	4. Ghana / Guinea	Guinea *		
	5. Zaire / Central Africa	Zaire	Nigeria	
Sierra Leone* / Niger	6. Sierra Leone / Nigeria	Nigeria		II
	7. Congo / Cameroon	Congo	Ivory Coast	
Mauritania / Upper Volta*	8. Upper Volta / Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast		
	9. Egypt / Ethiopia	Egypt	Egypt	
	10. Sudan / Kenya	Kenya *		III
	11. Uganda / Tanzania	Uganda	Zambia	
	12. Zambia / Malawi	Zambia		

(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 2, Upper Volta 0
31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2
17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
16. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2 (play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1
5. 6.77 Guinea 1, Tunisia 0
19. 6.77 Tunisia 3, Guinea 1
Ivory Coast v Nigeria
Nigeria 4, Ivory Coast 0
15. 7.77 Egypt 2, Zambia 0
31. 7.77 Zambia v Egypt

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	8	1	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Colombia	4	0	2	2	1	6	2

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Venezuela 0
27. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru	4	2	2	0	8	2	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Classified Results

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	13	9	2	2	25	17	20
Lota Schwager	14	6	8	0	22	12	20
Union Española	13	7	4	2	23	12	18
Everton	13	7	4	2	26	21	18
Aviacion	13	7	4	2	21	23	18
Concepción	14	7	3	4	22	18	17
Palestino	14	5	5	4	30	22	15
Audax Italiano	14	5	4	5	20	21	14
Huachipato	14	5	4	5	22	21	14
Green Cross	14	4	4	6	23	31	12
Ovalle	14	4	4	6	16	23	12
Wanderers	14	4	4	6	24	28	12
Univ.de Chile	13	3	5	5	20	20	11
O'Higgins	14	3	5	6	17	17	11
Nublense	14	3	4	7	19	20	10
Sant. Morning	14	2	5	7	12	23	9
Univ. Catolica	14	2	5	7	16	23	9
Antofagasta	13	1	4	8	10	24	6

URUGUAY: Major League (one match to go)

(1) Nacional 26 pts. (2) Peñarol 24. (3) Wanderers 21. (4) River Plate 20. (5) Liverpool 19. (6) Defensor 16. (7) Cerro 15. (8) Rentistas 14.

ECUADOR: National "Apertura" Championship (one match to go).

(1) Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito) 24 pts. (won championship); (2) Emelec (Guayaquil), Barcelona (Guayaquil)? Universidad Catolica (Quito) 20; (5) Universidad de Portoviejo, Deportivo Cuenca 18; (7) Nacional (Quito) 16, (8) Carmen Mora (Machala) 15; (9) Aucas (Quito) 14; (10) America (Quito) 5.

COLOMBIA: "Apertura" Championship (Final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Junior	26	12	11	3	38	21	35
Deportivo Cali	26	13	7	6	47	31	33
America de Cali	26	11	7	8	38	32	29
Ind. Santa Fe	26	8	13	5	33	20	29
Medellin	26	9	10	7	31	25	28
Quindio	26	9	9	8	29	32	27
Caldas	26	10	7	9	29	25	27
Millionarios	25	10	7	8	39	32	27
Nacional	24	9	7	8	26	23	25
Union Magdalena	26	7	9	10	21	32	23
Bucaramanga	26	4	14	8	26	34	22
Pereira	26	7	7	12	26	36	21
Tolima	26	6	8	12	30	35	20
Cucuta	25	3	7	15	29	46	13

PERU: National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Junin	6	6	0	0	13	6	12
Universitario	6	3	2	1	9	4	8
Alfonso Ugarte	6	4	0	2	11	8	8
Melgar	6	3	2	1	8	6	8
Col. N. Iquitos	6	3	2	1	7	4	8
Alianza Lima	6	3	1	2	13	8	7
Union Huaral	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Atletico Chalaco	6	2	2	2	8	6	6
Leon de Huanuco	6	2	1	3	5	10	5
Juan Aurich	6	2	1	3	8	6	5
Dep. Municipal	6	1	3	2	8	10	5
Defensor Lima	6	2	0	4	12	14	4
Sport Boys	6	1	2	3	8	11	4
Bolognesi	6	1	1	4	4	7	3
Sporting Cristal	6	1	1	4	6	9	3
Cienciano	6	1	0	5	1	13	2

WORLD CUP — South American final round (in Cali, Colombia)

July 10

BRAZIL (0) 1 (Gil) PERU 0

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria, Luis Pereira, Edinho, Rodriguez Neto, Cerezo, Paulo Isidoro (Dirceu); Rivelinho, Gil, Roberto, Paulo Cesar.

Peru: Quiroga, Navarro, Chumpitaz, Melendez, Diaz, Guesada, Velasquez, Cubillas, Muhante, Sotil (Rojas), Oblitas.

(Referee: Miguel Comesaña, Argentina).

July 14

BRAZIL (4) 8 (Zico 4, 1 pen, Roberto, G , Cerezo, Marcelo) **BOLIVIA 0**

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria, Luiz Pereira, Amaral, Rodriguez Neto, Cerezo, Rivelinho, Gil, Roberto, Dirceu, Marcelo.

Bolivia: C. Jimenez (Peinado), Del Llano, Rimazza, Lima, Valdivieso, Angulo, Aragones, Romero, Morales, P. Jimenez, Aguilar.

(Referee: Juan Silvagno, Chile).

July 17

PERU (2) 5 (Cubillas 2, Velazquez 2, Rojas) **BOLIVIA 0**

Peru: Quiroga, Navarro, Melendez, Chumpitaz, Diaz, Velazquez, Aparicio, Cubillas (Ramirez), Muhante, Sotil (Rojas), Oblitas.

Bolivia: Peinado, Campos, Lima, Valdivieso, Rimazza, Angulo, Aragones (Morales), Del Llano, P. Jimenez, Romero, Aguilar.

(Referee: Ramon Barreto, Uruguay).

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	–	–	9	–	4
Peru	3	1	–	1	6	1	2
Bolivia	2	–	–	2	–	13	–

(Brazil and Peru qualify for World Cup finals — Bolivia plays European group nine winner Hungary for final place).

INTERNATIONALS

June 26

ARGENTINA 0 FRANCE 0

Argentina: Baley, Tarantini, Killer (Olguin), Passarella, Carrascosa, Larrosa, Gallego, Villa, Houseman, Luque (Trossero), Gonzalez (Ardiles).

France: Baratelli, Battiston, Rio, Tresor, Bossis, Shahnoun, Michel (Girresse), Platini, Baronchelli (Zimako), Rouyer, Amisse (Six).

(Referee: Edison Perez Nunez, Peru) Att: 55,000

BRAZIL 0 YUGOSLAVIA 0

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria, Luis Pereira, Edinho, Marinho, Toninho, Cerezo, Rivelinho, Paulo Isidoro, Marcelo, Reinaldo, Paulo Cesar.

Yugoslavia: Katalinic, Muzinic, Vujkov, Bogdan, Stojkovic, Rajkovic, Jordovic, Petrovic, Zavisic, Savic, Surjac.

(Referee: Armando Marques, Brazil). Att: 91,000

June 30

BRAZIL (1) 2 (Edinho, Roberto) **FRANCE (0) 2** (Six, Tresor)

Brazil: Leao, Ze Maria (Orlando), Luiz Pereira, Edinho, Rodrigues Neto, Paulo Isidoro, Toninho Cerezo, Rivelinho, Gil, Roberto, Paulo Cesar.

France: Rey, Janvion, Tresor, Rio, Bossis, Shahnoun, Platini, Bathenay, Zimako (Rouyer), Lacombe, Six.

(Referee: Romualdo Arpi Filho, Brazil). Att: 83,000

July 3

ARGENTINA (1) 1 (Passarella, pen) **YUGOSLAVIA 0**

Argentina: Baley, Tarantini, Olguin, Passarella, Carrascosa, Ardiles, Galvan, Villa (Bochini), Houseman, Luque (Trossero), Ortiz.

Yugoslavia: Katalinic, Muzinic, Stojkovic, Rajkovic, Vujkov, Bogdan (Petrovic), Zajet, Zavisic (Savic), Zungul, Surjak (Djordjevic).

(Referee: Juan Silvagno, Chile). Att: 55,000

July 12

ARGENTINA (1) 2 (Houseman, Carrascosa) **EAST GERMANY 0**

Argentina: Baley, Tarantini, Olguin, Passarella, Carrascosa, Ardiles (Rocha), Galvan, Villa, Houseman, Luque, Ortiz.

East Germany: Croy, Doernerm, Kurbjuweit, Weise, Fritsche, Haefner, Schade, Muller (Lauck), Sachse (Riediger), Sogrwasser, Kotte (Hoffman).

(Referee: Ramon Barreto, Uruguay). Att: 50,000

LIBERTADORES CUP (South American club championship)

Semi-final group 1

July 14

BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (0) 1 (Pavón) **LIBERTAD (Paraguay) 0**

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perna (Zanabria), Sa, Mouzo, Tarantini, J. Benitez, Suñe, Robotzi (sent off 71 min), Mastrangelo, Veglio (Pavón), Felman.

Libertad: Baez, Espinosa, Villalba, Taverigli, B. Benitez (sent off 53m), Colman, Benitez Isasi, Maldonado, Reitas (Robles), M. Morel, E. Morel (Espinola —sent off 71 min).

(Referee: Juan Fortunato, Uruguay).

Semi-final group 2

July 3

INTERNACIONAL Porto Alegre (Brazil) 0 CRUZEIRO Belo Horizonte (Brazil) (0) 1 (Joaozinho)

Internacional: Manga, Berete, Marinho, Gardel, Vacaria, Batista, Falcao, Jair, Valdomiro, Dario, Lula (Santos).

Cruzeiro: Raul, Nelinho, Morais, Osiris, Vanderlei, Carlos, Neca, Eduardo, Eli Mendes, Eli Carlos, Joaozinho.

(Referee: Angel Coerezza, Argentina). Att: 38,000

July 10

PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) (1) 3 (Moss, Nito de Lima, Nunes) **INTERNACIONAL (Brazil) 0**

Portuguesa: Garate, Marin, Buzzo, Marcenaro, Ochoa (Salas), De Lima, Jairzinho, Moss, Peralta, Silva (Nunes), Laeries.

Internacional: Manga, Berete, Marinho, Gardel, Vacaria, Batista, Bolinho (Escudinho), Jair, Valdomiro, Joaozinho, Santos.

(Referee: José Romei, Paraguay). Att: 8,000

July 17

PORTUGUESA (Venezuela) 0 CRUZEIRO (Brazil) (1) 4 (Neca, Nilinho, Livio, Mendes)

Portuguesa: Garate, Marin, Marcenaro, Buzzo, Ochoa, Moss, De Lima (Nunez), Echenausi, Jairzinho, Silva, Peralta.

Cruzeiro: Raul, Nelinho, Moraes, Osiris, Vanderley, Ze Carlos, Eduardo, Mendes, Neca (Livio), Carlos, Joaozinho (Waldo).

(Referee: Luis Pestarino, Argentina). Att: 12,000

Semi-final group 2 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro (Brazil)	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Portuguesa (Venezuela)	2	1	0	1	3	4	2
Internacional (Brazil)	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

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